THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 4, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 16 • LATE CITY EDITION

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INVINCIBLE AUSTRALIA WIN SEVENTH WORLD CUP TITLE

The unbeaten Meg Lanning side finish the campaign with a thumping 71-run victory against England in the final

THE MOST COMPETITIVE TOURNAMENT EVER

As the 31-day cricket carnival came to an end at Christchurch, the marquee tournament will go down as one of the most competitive World Cups yet, with as many as 10 last-over thrillers. Debutants Bangladesh left a positive impression, Pakistan ended their losing streak, while a resurgent West Indies and steely South Africa made their way into the knockouts past India | P11

ALYSSA HEALY'S DAY OUT AT HAGLEY OVAL

The opener was named Player of the Match and Tournament

Is the first to score tons in both semifinal and final of a World Cup

Total score of 509 by Healy is most for any batter in a World Cup

Alyssa Healy-Rachael Haynes 160-run stand is the highest for any wicket in a WC final

170

BY HEALY IS THE HIGHEST SCORE IN ANY MEN'S OR WOMEN'S WC FINAL

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Battle in SC after Imran calls snap polls

Deputy speaker dismisses no-confidence motion moved by united Opposition; PM gets presidential assent to go for fresh elections

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

PAKISTAN'S beleaguered Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday ducked a floor test he was certain to lose, by getting the presidential nod to dissolve Parliament, shortly after the deputy speaker of the Lower House in a pre-orchestrated drama nullified the no-confidence motion against his coalition government.

An angry Opposition called the decisions unconstitutional and approached the Supreme Court, which had by then on its own taken notice of the unfolding constitutional crisis.

Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial said all orders and actions of Imran and President Arif Alvi on the dissolution will be subject to the court's order, before adjourning the hearing till Monday.

If the dissolution gets judicial approval, an interim national government would be put in place to hold snap polls within three months.

The position of the military establishment in the coup-prone nation was unclear, though for the record it said it had no role in the day's developments. Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa had at least twice met Imran last week to explore workarounds to the crisis.

Imran was widely expected to lose the no-confidence motion moved by an alliance of Opposition politicians, since it included more than a dozen defectors from his own political party.

Since morning, there was speculation that Opposition leaders could suffer physical harm from the ruling party's loyalists after Imran urged them to hit the streets in large numbers. However, the streets were largely quiet partly due heavy security deployment.

The day's drama began with Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri ruling that the no-trust motion was unconstitutional because a minister claimed its origins lay in a foreign plot. Suri chaired the session after the Opposition filed a no-trust motion against Speaker Asad Qaiser.

Soon, Imran addressed the nation saying he had recommended snap polls. President Alvi rubberstamped it in a snap.

"It is nothing short of a high treason. IK has pushed the country into anarchy. Niazi & his cohort will not be allowed to go scot-free. There will be consequences for blatant & brazen violation of the Constitution. Hope SC will play it's role to uphold the Constitution," Opposition leader Shehbaz Sherif later tweeted.

Pakistan's opposition lawmakers arrive at Parliament in Islamabad on Sunday | AFP

Bench's directive to govt

A three-member bench of Pakistan's Supreme Court barred all state institutions from taking any unconstitutional steps while taking note of the unfolding political situation after the dissolution of Parliament

PM mocks Opposition

"The Opposition is still unable to understand what happened today," Imran Khan laughingly told his lawmakers after the no-trust motion was rejected on the floor of the House by the deputy speaker

Hate speech against Muslims again by Yati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@New Delhi

RABBLE-ROUSER Yati Narsinghanand yet again stoked controversy on Sunday, asking Hindus to pick up arms and making offensive remarks against Muslims, at northwest Delhi's Burari grounds while addressing a Hindu Mahapanchayat. Delhi Police officials said the organisers did not have permission to hold the event.

Addressing the gathering, Narsinghanand, the head of Ghaziabad's Dasna Devi temple, said "40% Hindus will be killed if India were to get a Muslim PM." He urged Hindus to pick up arms in order to secure their future. "This is the future of Hindus. If you want to change this, be a man (mard bano). What is it to be a man? Someone who is armed," the priest said, who is on bail in a Haridwar hate speech case.

Some journalists who had gone to cover the event alleged they were manhandled and beaten up by members of the audience. P8

EXPRESS READ

Protesters defy Lanka curfew, 650 arrested

Colombo: Defying a curfew imposed to prevent protests, thousands of people took to the streets of Sri Lanka on Sunday to demonstrate against the ongoing economic crisis. Over 650 people were arrested in the country's Western Province of which capital Colombo is a part P9

Ex-top cop Bhaskar Rao to join AAP today

Bengaluru: Boosting AAP efforts to strengthen its organisation in Karnataka ahead of the Assembly polls, former Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao will join the party on Monday. P4

WHO HALTS COVAXIN SUPPLY BY U.N. CITING DEFICIENCIES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE World Health Organization on Sunday said it has suspended the supply of Covaxin through the United Nations to allow the jab's maker—Bharat Biotech—to upgrade its facilities and address the deficiencies found during a recent inspection.

The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech clarified that the said findings will have no impact on the efficacy and safety of its vaccine. "For the millions who have received Covaxin, the vaccine certificates issued still stand valid as there is no impact on efficacy and safety of the vaccine," it said.

Meanwhile, the WHO has asked countries that have received shipments of Covaxin to take appropriate actions without specifying what actions need to be taken.

Also, it did not specify what GMP (good manufacturing practices) deficiencies were found at the facility where Covaxin is made. It said the suspension was in response to the "outcomes of the WHO post-Emergency Use Listing inspections conducted from March 14 to 22".

The WHO, however, assured the public that the vaccine is effective, and no safety concerns exist.

The suspension came after Bharat Biotech on Friday announced it was slowing down the production of Covaxin saying it has completed its supply obligation and was expecting a decrease in demand.

More than 30.81 crore doses of Covaxin have been administered in India to those aged 15 years and above. In a statement, the pharma company said, "It has to be stressed that the quality of Covaxin was never compromised at any point in time" and added that "in the coming period, it would focus on pending facility maintenance, process, and facility optimisation activities."

Will contest next MLC poll from BJP: Horatti

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @ Hubballi

Finally, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti on Sunday announced that he will join BJP ahead of the MLC elections to the west teachers' constituency. With this, the regional party JDS has lost another major leader from North Karnataka to the saffron party.

Horatti told media persons in Hubballi that time has come for him to join the BJP, but he has not decided the date yet. "I will contest the next MLC election on a BJP ticket. Party national president JP Nadda, state leader BS Yediyurappa and top leaders spoke to me and they have all agreed to me joining the party," he added.

Last time, Horatti contested the MLC election from a JDS ticket and won. He was also the education minister. P4

HUMANE WAY

Govt to BBMP: Pass order to stun animals before killing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

IN the middle of halal controversy in Karnataka, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services has issued a letter to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) asking the civic body to direct and ensure that all chicken shops and abattoirs in the city slaughter the animals only after stunning them.

According to the department's deputy director, the letter comes after several complaints alleging that rules are not being followed at slaughterhouses.

Stunning is an act of knocking out the senses of an animal prior to slaughter. The notice came in the wake of Hindu organisations appealing for a ban on halal meat as well as Varsha Todaku celebrated on Sunday.

The department has asked BBMP to report to the Bengaluru Urban chapter of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty on Animals on the progress made in ensuring that the slaughterhouses are following the guidelines.

In the letter, dated April 1, the department cited the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Slaughter House) Rules, 2001. The Act stipulates that a separate area for stunning the animals prior to slaughter is necessary and also that the the area where it takes place be suitable for the animal as well as for the practice of religious slaughter. P2

Cong indispensable, not in race to head UPA: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

DAYS after a Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) wing proposed his name for the UPA chairperson's post, saying the Congress was no longer fit enough to lead the coalition, party chief **Sharad Pawar** said he was not interested in that position, adding the grand old party was indispensible for the grouping because of its pan-India footprint.

"I am not at all interested in that position. I am not going to get into that. I will not take up that responsibility," the former Union minister told the media in Kolhapur.

Interestingly, Pawar was present at the meeting of the NCP youth wing's national executive committee last Tuesday when it adopted a resolution proposing him as the new UPA chief.

Pawar also ruled out the possibility of him becoming the face of the national front of the Opposition in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "But if an attempt is made to provide an alternative (to the BJP), I am ready to co-operate, support and strengthen such a bloc," Pawar said.

As for the Congress, he said it must also be brought on board. "You will find Congress workers in every village, district, and state in the country. Reality is that the Congress, which has a wide presence, must be taken on board," he said.

NATIONWIDE	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Fresh cases	1,260	1,096
Recoveries	1,404	1,447
Deaths	83	81

KARNATAKA	APRIL 2	APRIL 3
Fresh cases	34	50
Recoveries	79	51
Deaths	0	0

SHODDY JOB

POTHOLES FILLED, BUT...

Adhering to Karnataka High Court directions, BBMP claims to have filled all potholes in the city. But the roads continue to be uneven and bumpy P2

Karnataka to study natural farming on 4,000 acres

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

IN a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Karnataka government will focus on natural farming and will grow crops without using chemical fertilisers and insecticides on 4,000 acres, with 1,000 acres each in Krishi Vijnana Kendras attached to four Universities of Agriculture Sciences across the state. The decision has been taken as there is an increasing demand for chemical-free vegetables and fruits.

Starting this pre-monsoon, the government will take up the study on chemical-free farming in association with the four agriculture universities -- situated in Bengaluru, Dharwad, Raichur and Shivamogga. Once the yield is good, natural farming methods will be taught to farmers.

Agriculture Minister BC Patil told The New Indian Express that these Universities have large tracts of land attached to them, and natural farming will be taken up on 1,000 acres on each campus. The focus will be on region-based crops, he added.

Patil said farmers in the state grow various crops, including paddy, ragi, pulses, jowar, areca nut, fruits and vegetables. Each region grows different crops based on the climate and water availability. "Instead of chemical-based fertilisers and insecticides, scientists will use green leaves, neem, cow dung and other naturally available items to grow crops. Starting this April and May, which is the pre-monsoon season, we will start the cultivation at these universities. Once it is successful, we will ask farmers from those areas to practice natural farming," he added.

Experts said natural farming is economical for farmers as they don't have to spend money on chemical-based products. Srinivas Reddy, former director and scientific officer, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), said, "Indians practised natural farming for thousands of years with the help of age-old wisdom. P5

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday : 04/04/2022 • Year: Shubhakrutha • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Chaitra • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dwitheeya 11.56 am
• Nakshatra: Ashwini 12.06 pm • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 21°C | MAX 34°C
FORECAST
Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 6.14 am
Sunset 6.31 pm
Moonrise 8.16 am
Moonset 9.13 pm

TOUGH DRIVE

POTHOLES FILLED? RIDE SAYS OTHERWISE

Two-wheelers in particular face more problem when it is dark

Patch works by BBMP have resulted in bumps on the road causing threat to commuters and an uncomfortable ride in Bengaluru | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

ADHERING to directions from Karnataka High Court along with a stern warning, most of the potholes in city roads have been filled up. However, the roads are still uneven, depriving the riders and drivers of a smooth journey.

The bumpy, uneven roads have caused back pain. Many of them had to consult doctors after suffering from strained spinal cords, back, neck and shoulder pains.

"The potholes have been repaired by BBMP, but the condition remains the same. Patch works have been done to fill up the potholes, and so, they are uneven. The bumpy ride combined with the terrible traffic seem to be a permanent worry for commuters in Bengaluru," said Lakshmi N, a commuter from Horamavu.

Chasing a deadline set by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and the Karnataka high court, the potholes were filled up in a hurry with patch works. While the cars which have good suspension avoid the bone-breaking jerks, it is the two-wheelers which run into trouble. The bikers have to drive slowly constantly, and it gets worse, when the street lights are not bright enough or switched off.

Citizens also point out that when they complain to the BBMP engineers or at the ward committees, the officials state that the potholes have been filled up and that is what they have been ordered to do.

The contractors also admit that they were told to fill the potholes and it has been done.

> IT has been brought to my notice that in many places the roads are uneven, even after the potholes have been filled. In such cases the entire roads need complete asphalting. Work on assessing where there is an acute problem is being done for immediate help.
>
> Gaurav Gupta, BBMP chief

Patch works in some areas have started to come off, giving way to craters. "Seems like the roads were filled by the contractors in a haste and with poor materials. The potholes have started to resurface with the movement of heavy vehicles," said Gopal K, a resident of Magadi Road. In other areas, the stretches are pathetic due to a lack of coordination among government agencies where the potholed roads have been dug up by BWSSB or Bescom for water and cable works and have not been repaired since.

A BBMP engineer, requesting anonymity, said: "People do not appreciate what we do. The potholes have been filled as was directed. With wear and tear, the roads will be even."

Corporators tussle over road repair

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

WHILE in some roads in the city, potholes have been repaired, in case of Deewanarapalya, Malleswaram, most of the roads are non-motorable.

Locals said that owning to pressure from the public and following the direction of the corporators, the road near IISc's D Gate has been tarred but done in a haste, and they wished that the road was not done since it resulted in an incline.

Vivek M, a resident of Malleswaram, said the tussle between two corporators -- of ward numbers 46 and 36 -- for repairing the road in the area including the one near IISc has become a matter of concern.

Malleswaram is a high-profile constituency as it under IT- BT minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan. It is also important as many researchers and professors including reside in the area.

"The road and area in contention is worrisome as former corporator of ward 45 Jayapal stays there, but its management is under former corporator of ward number 36, Jayprakash. Due to their tussle, the road work has been pending for a long time and now it has been done in a haphazard manner," said another citizen.

Reacting to this, Jayapal said that the work was delayed as the water and underground drainage pipelines were being laid and repaired, and added that there is problem between the corporators. Sixty per cent of the asphalting work has been completed and the rest will be done before the onset of monsoon, he added.

Apartment owners live on in uncertainty

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

WITH tall promises of amenities and one of the three blocks of their apartment under ceaseless construction, home buyers of GR Queens Pride at Yelenahalli in South Bengaluru are distraught. Worse, even without the permit for commercial construction, the builder has recently put up a 'To-Let' board inviting commercial ventures, prompting a police complaint at Jayanagar by residents.

Complaints have been registered at Consumer Court, RERA and even the Supreme Court. But the builder, who stays in Bengaluru, is unperturbed. Owners of GR Promoters, N Rammohan and his wife Geetha, have abandoned the project on Begur-Koppa Road in 2014, home buyers allege.

A total of 101 2BHK and 3BHK houses are ready in Blocks B and C of the apartment comprising nine floors while an attempt to make Block A a commercial one is underway. Eighty families have moved in already and the GR Queens Pride Owners Welfare Association has repeatedly sought justice on their behalf.

Palaniappa Murkesan, a house owner said that the building lacked fire safety features and permanent electrical connection. "We had filed a case in the consumer court in 2017 and the verdict came a year later ordering the builder to put in place all the amenities within three months. However, after three years, the builder is still refusing to accept the executing order from the court," he explained.

The promised badminton court and swimming pool have been forgotten while the gym and party hall is a miniature version of what was promised, Murukesan added. Owner-cum-occupant, Pankaj Sharma, an IT professional had spent Rs 35 lakh on his 2 BHK house. "I have been living here since 2015 without Completion and Occupancy Certificates among other crucial documents needed," he said.

After almost a year, Krishnan Subramanian wanted to know what happened to their complaint filed with RERA on April 9, 2021. "We have not received any hearing date for over a year and what is the reason for the delay in passing the judgment when the builder has not been responsive?" The promoters could not be reached for comments.www

FIRST MEAL

Muslims at Iftar on the first day of Ramzan at the Masjid-E-Khadria in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

B'luru postal div scraps Yulu bike plan

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE proposal by the Bengaluru Postal department to use the eco-friendly Yulu e-bikes to deliver letters and parcels across the city has been dropped. The step, launched at the JP Nagar sub-post office on a pilot basis, on October 14 last year was to be extended across Bengaluru if it proved to be financially viable.

A senior postal official said, "We have worked out the costs in detail. The amount involved in using the Yulu vehicle a month for a delivery person

worked out to around Rs 5,500 as compared to around Rs 1,500 incurred as fuel costs on a regular two-wheeler. It is financially not viable for us."

Unlike in the case of other Yulu users who may need it for a couple of hours, our delivery staff may need it for six to eight hours per day. "This along with charges incurred on battery recharge makes it expensive for us," he added. Postal delivery personnel are given Rs 1,500 as monthly conveyance allowance while Grameen Dak Sevaks are given Rs 1,063 for the same.

Launched six months ago with 15 postal delivery staff in the Bengaluru Postal Region it became the first in India to use e-vehicles for deliveries. Asked about it, a spokesperson for Yulu said, "We're still keen on taking our partnership forward."

Many groups had sought ban

CONTINUED FROM P1

FURTHER, Chapter 6 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Rules, 1960, prohibits killing of an animal required as per religious practice to be rendered as an offence. Several religious groups had sought a ban on halal meat as well as a its mass boycott, with BJP National Secretary CT Ravi terming the practice as 'economic jihad'.

EXPRESS READ

Rubik's wonder boy

Bengaluru: In an extraordinary feat, a Class 3 Bengaluru student has been recognised by the India Book of Records for solving 30 Rubik's cubes in less than 14 minutes. **Bhargav Sriram Raju**, a student of Orchids International School, will feature in the 2023 edition of the record book. Documenting the feat on his YouTube channel, he attempted to solve 30 different types of Rubik's cubes within 15 minutes and completed it with his official time at 13 minutes and 51 seconds. The India Book of Records officially recognised his feat on March 20.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

04th April : Some people like New Moons. Actually I prefer Full Moons. They are always so dramatic, whether the Moon is yellow and low on the horizon, or shining like silver and high in the sky. It's one of nature's most dramatic sights so I'd urge you to look up this evening and give yourself a visual treat - clouds permitting!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Not everything is as it should be! Could it be that sharp words at home will result from differing opinions as to your prospects at work? Or perhaps it's another ambition which is coming between you? All your questions will be answered in good time!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
One of your great unsung qualities is your generosity. You are not the person to hang on to your money while close friends and loved ones go short: now is the time to part with some of your hard-won cash. It's also, by the way, quite the perfect moment for a trip back to your childhood.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
If you are tiring of an emotional conflict, surely the message is that it is time to give in to your better nature and make amends for past hurts and insults. Be sure that there is no going back to former mistakes and problems unless, that is, you are determined to resolve them.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Venus is bound to bring out the more delicate side of your nature, perhaps making it more difficult than usual to deal with the ups and downs of fate and fortune. Where you score is on your own kindness and goodwill, and your willingness to release somebody else from a promise.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Fiery Mars offers you just the tonic you need. The important consideration now is that it's not too late to take a decision that you put off days, or even weeks, ago. Work hard to catch up, even though you may feel that you're not getting a suitable financial pay-back.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Because Mars is now occupying a rather discreet sector of your horoscope, you may be unwilling to act in the full glare of public attention. Yet this is an ambitious time for you, one in which you may have to overcome certain reservations. In particular, you need to look again at your dogged devotion to duty, even when other people have backed out.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your desire for peace and stability tends to extend beyond your immediate circle to encompass people you scarcely know. So, on days like today, when everyone is a little jumpy and excitable, you may feel personally responsible for maintaining a cordial environment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
A financial crisis may blow up but, as the dust settles, you see just how little there was to worry about. You are still receiving a fair amount of monetary protection from Venus, the traditional planet of prosperity. But basically it's reminding you that money is not always as important as it seems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
You'll be turning the corner in a number of activities which closely involve other people. You might not say that this is the beginning of the end, but at least it's the end of the beginning. But, then, every astrological ending is accompanied by a new beginning!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Today's lunar aspects should bring you to the close of a phase which has been over-concerned with work and routine chores, perhaps to the detriment of a number of seductive social developments. In love, may I offer you one piece of advice? While aiming for the best, don't be too pushy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Your mood will change rapidly from being relatively outgoing and sociable, to being rather quiet and moody. People who you had been prepared to take at face value may now arouse a degree of suspicion. You might also now be considering the fruits of a romantic adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Today's sensitive relationship between a series of planets brings your home and family ambitions to a turning point. You are now approaching a phase from which you know it will be impossible to return. That's good though, isn't it? For you can only go one way - forward.

THE PHANTOM

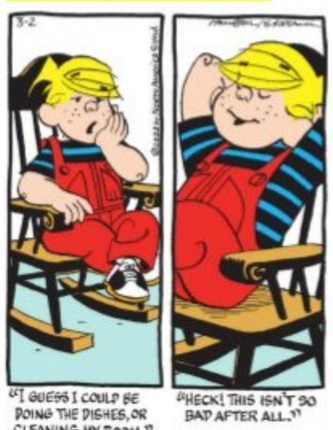
HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE



SUDOKU

Easy: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

4	1	2						7
8			1	2	9	4		3
			7				2	
	9				6	2	1	
			4		2			
	7	3	8				5	
	4				3			
7		9	2	8	4			1
3						8	4	6

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

8	6	1	7	2	3	5	4	9
4	3	7	9	1	5	6	8	2
5	2	9	4	6	8	3	1	7
7	9	5	3	8	6	1	2	4
3	1	4	2	9	7	8	6	5
2	8	6	1	5	4	7	9	3
1	5	3	6	4	2	9	7	8
6	4	8	5	7	9	2	3	1
9	7	2	8	3	1	4	5	6

CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Magazines laid so price may be seen (11)
9 Any evil simply expressed (7)
10 Great arterial way (5)
11 Food of love at first sight (4)
12 Good looks? (8)
14 Companion of an American star (6)
16 Not a Mr mistaken for a Mrs (6)
18 I'm sent back with money for betting slips (8)
19 Get a larger size (4)
22 South African by birth? (5)
23 Stumble on crude oil in North Africa (7)
24 Old-timers (11)

DOWN

2 Order found in the dictionary (5)
3 Time to change article (4)
4 This poet makes uninteresting study (6)
5 Yet he stands at the head of the board (8)
6 Unsteady dog? (7)
7 Warrant to arrest or set about soldiers (11)
8 Capricious desire to overtake someone (7,4)
13 Twists up, moved in front, all spread out (8)
15 The stone archaeologists treat so cryptically (7)
17 Such a surgeon knows his drill (6)
20 Swiss river heron in distress (5)
21 Offers to take the lot? (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Pillar, 4 Emission, 9 Nelson, 10 Fraction, 12 Lois, 13 Bowls, 14 Flat, 17 Propositions, 20 Straitjacket, 23 User, 24 Smart, 25 Plot, 28 Firmhand, 29 Single, 30 Exercise, 31 Deaths.

Down: 1 Penelope, 2 Lollipop, 3 Aeon, 5 Moral victory, 6 Sack, 7 Icicle, 8 Ninety, 11 Logical minds, 15 Route, 16 Sneak, 18 Skylight, 19 Stutters, 21 Ruffle, 22 Hearse, 26 Chic, 27 Like.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

THHCI

TAESU

MRRPEI

PRISLA

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S **Jumbles:**
FLOSS CRAZY INTAKE OCTANE
ANSWER: The bird had trouble seeing window and would try to remember to – STAY CLEAR OF IT

Two wild elephants were spotted in Jnana Sahyadri Campus of Kuvempu University at Shankaraghatta in Shivamogga on Sunday evening, spreading panic across the campus. University sources said that the elephants were first spotted near the quarters at around 6 pm. Forest officials successfully chased away the elephants back into the forest

TRACKING COVID-19

DURATION OF PANDEMIC
2 YEARS, 26 DAYS

CASES REPORTED
Today: **50** | Yesterday: **34**

TALLY
Today: **39,45,660**
Yesterday: **39,45,610**

DEATHS	DISCHARGES
Today: **0**	Today: **51**
Yesterday: **0**	Yesterday: **79**

ACTIVE CASES
Today: **1,515**
Yesterday: **1,516**

POSITIVITY RATE	MORTALITY RATE
Today: **6.01%**	Today: **1.01%**
Yesterday: **6.01%**	Yesterday: **1.01%**

RECOVERY RATE
Today: **98.94%**
Yesterday: **98.94%**

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES
LAST 24 HOURS

Bengaluru Urban	**49**
Bengaluru Rural	**0**
Bagalkot	0
Ballari	0
Belagavi	1
Bidar	0
Chamarajanagar	0
Chikkaballapur	0
Chikkamagaluru	0
Chitradurga	0
Dakshina Kannada	0
Davanagere	0
Dharwad	0
Gadag	0
Hassan	0
Haveri	0
Kalaburagi	0
Kodagu	0
Kolar	0
Koppal	0
Mandya	0
Mysuru	0
Raichur	0
Ramanagara	0
Shivamogga	0
Tumakuru	0
Udupi	0
Uttara Kannada	0
Vijayapura	0
Yadgir	0

Quick loan recovery agents resort to foul messages, language

Harassment begins as soon as money is borrowed; some pay back double the amount

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

YOUR mobile loan apps might offer you quick cash, but default once and the ugly face of the system jumps out at you. Loan recovery agents have sunk to such a low that they send messages in unparliamentary language about the person to his or her contacts, both personal and professional, and shame them.

Being called a 'rapist' in messages sent to all the borrower's contacts is just one of the milder derogatory terms used.

Co-founder of car pooling app, Quickride, Vishal Lavti told TNIE about the nightmare one of his employees had gone through after in for such quick loans. "Foul messages were sent to many colleagues as well as all his personal contacts. He has taken loans from many here to try to put an end to the harassment, but it is just not getting over. I am planning to file a complaint with the Cyber Crime cell."

What is worse is that they have got hold of his room mate's number too, and are bombarding him too with calls and messages, Lavti added.

The employee, completely traumatised, said when applying for the loan, they insist on the applicant parting with the contact numbers on the mobile, apart from other ID documents before the loan is approved. "I have been taking these weekly repayable loans on and off for over a year. It is the first time I could not pay on time and I have been harassed like this. This was for a loan I availed on March 17," he explained.

It is shocking that he is being hounded for borrowing a sum of Rs 32,000, from different lenders through apps. "I have already repaid Rs 70,000 for the sum I borrowed, but am still being tortured for it. This is because a part of the original sum remains and the harassment continues," he said. Specifying details on how the extortion occurs, he said that for a sum of Rs 7,000 borrowed for a week, one needs to pay it fully in seven days. "If one is not able to do it, then you need to pay up Rs 3,000 and it will get you an extension time of one week to pay the same Rs 7,000 again. This is how your loan builds up," he added.

Rupee Loan, Cash Box, Many Cash, Luck Rupee and Sun Cash are the concerns he has borrowed, the borrower added. "It is not just me who is stuck like this but many others including two of my friends too are at the receiving end," he says.

D L Nagesh, SP, CID (Crime), told TNIE, "It is important that public do not share their contact details with unknown people. We have repeatedly tried to create awareness about it among them but a good number of people fall victims to such harassment." Cyber Crime, Economic Offences and Narcotics (CEN) police stations are attached to each of the eight DCP offices across the City. "Those who are victims of such crimes must file a complaint at any of the CEN stations so that we can help them out," he said.

Wait! This not a postcard from Japan during cherry-blossom season, but a street in Bengaluru. Namma Ooru's skies are now coloured in pink – thanks to the tabebuia flowers – often drawing parallels to the blooming sakura flowers in Japan in early spring | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

END IS NIGH: 28 OF 30 DISTS REPORT ZERO COVID CASES

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOR the first time through the pandemic, 28 of the 30 districts of Karnataka listed on the state health department data sheet (Vijayanagar is part of Ballari) have recorded no additions to their respective Covid-19 tallies.

Bengaluru Urban — which has throughout the pandemic spearheaded the surge in the state — recorded 49 cases, while Belagavi recorded just one, taking fresh Covid-19 cases in the state up by 50 to reach a tally of 39,45,660.

Interestingly, in what is a strong indicator to the pandemic fading out completely, the state has scored a hattrick in reporting zero deaths on the third consecutive day. The Covid-19 death toll has remained stationary at 40,054 over the past three days, although the mortality rate has remained just a notch above the 1 per cent mark (at 1.01 per cent). The health department had aimed to bring the mortality rate below the 1 per cent mark in an effort to minimise deaths.

FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE

Of the total Covid-19 death toll, the first wave of the pandemic (March 2020 to January 2021) claimed approximately 12,400 lives; the second wave (March 2021 to December 2021) claimed about 25,900 lives; while the third wave (January 2022 till date) claimed about 1,700 lives.

The third wave of the pandemic lasted just for three months. The low death count in this wave is being attributed to a significantly less severe Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and increasing vaccination cover among the state's population.

Woman killed in freak mishap in plastic factory

BENGALURU: A 28-year-old woman working in a plastic recycling unit died after her dupatta got stuck to the belt of a machine. The deceased Shaziya Baanu was a resident of Gangondanahalli and was working at ZS Plastic Factory located in Azeez Sait Industrial Area in Nayan-dahalli. The police said the incident occurred at 5.15 pm on Saturday. Her dupatta accidentally got stuck to the belt of a machine and she was dragged towards the machine. She sustained head injuries and was rushed to a hospital, where she was referred to NIMHANS. "We have booked the factory owner for causing death by negligence," police said. ENS

Clinics shut OPD services for a day

ENS@ Bengaluru

KARNATAKA clinics shut down outpatient services, and emergency doctors wore black badges on Saturday to show solidarity, following the death of a gynaecologist in Rajasthan. Dr Archana Sharma died by suicide on Tuesday, following alleged harassment when one of her pregnant patients died. Following the patient's death, the family filed a case against Dr Sharma, claiming negligence. In a suicide note, Dr Sharma requested that harassment of her family should stop.

DOCTOR'S SUICIDE

Following this, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) called for a protest on April 2 and instructed all doctors to shut OPD services. Speaking to TNIE, Dr Srinivasa S, spokesperson for IMA (Bengaluru) and chairperson for the national IMA Standing Committee for Child Health, said as it was Ugadi, a full procession could not be held in solidarity with the nationwide protests. "However, doctors working in emergency services wore black badges and all clinics were shut down. No one was turned away in emergency circumstances, but we wanted to show our solidarity and unity," he said. Services were barred from 6am to 8pm on Saturday. Dr Srinivasa said they plan to up the fight in the coming weeks, to prevent issues like these in future.

IMA also said it would start pressuring the central government to draft a law that prevents the harassment of doctors and their families.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public are hereby informed that, my client my client . RAJASHEKAR REDDY. K.N, Aged about 62 years, S/o. late. Narayana Reddy, R/at No. B – 35/1, Isiri Nilaya, Harmony Layout, Golden Gate Properties, Indlabele, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District-562107. In respect of Vacant Site bearing No.D-26 in Durian Block bearing House list Katha No. 718, 719, 722, 724, 725 layout called as HARMONY LAYOUT formed in Converted Land bearing Sy.No.25/3A, 179, 180, 183/1 & 2, 184/1 & 2, 185/1, 2 & 3, 186/1, 2 & 3, 187/2 totally measuring 23 acres 12 guntas Approved from BMRDA/LAO/24/2004-05 Dated: 26-03-2005 and 19-09-2008 as per form No. 9 and 11A bearing E-Katha-No.1502001002003025 95 property No. 2044/D-26 measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1600 Sq. feet situated at Harmony Layout, Golden Gate Properties, Indlabele, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District. The public are hereby informed that, any Person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or having any right, title or interest in the schedule property stated above may lodge their objection in writing with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence for such claim within 15 days from this date. Person/s having filed any case/s in respect of the property are also informed to lodge their objections with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel Vacant as per form No. 9 and 11A bearing E-Katha-No.1502001002003025 95 Site bearing No. D-26 property No. 2044/D-26 measuring East to West 40 feet, North to South 40 feet totally measuring 1600 Sq. feet situated at Harmony Layout, Golden Gate Properties, Indlabele, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, Bounded On: East by : Plot No. D-25 West by : Private Property North by : Road South by : Plot No D-27/1

A.G.RAJU, M.SUBRAMANYA, Advocates
Near Gnannajyothi, Vijayakumar Layout, Attibele Road, Anekal Town, Bangalore -562 106 Date: 01/04/2022

IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-1)

MISC. No. 141/2021

BETWEEN: Smt. A.W. Gnanakan, W/o. Syed Zakir Hussain, Aged about 61 years, R/at No. 5/2, 4th 'B' Cross, Trinity Enclave, Banjara Layout, Horamavu, Bangalore - 560 043. ...PETITIONERS

AND : M/s. Surana Constructions LLP and others ...RESPONDENTS

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT THROUGH NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION

To, Respondent No. 5 : UNSHIRE HOMES LLP. A Partnership Firm Registered under the Limited Liability Partnership Act and having its administrative office at #36, "UNISHIRE SQUARE" Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore - 560020.

PAN No. AADFU 1529 R Represented by its authorized Mr. G. NANDAKUMAR

Whereas we have filed this suit to transfer the suit filed by the plaintiffs in O.S. No. 7710/2019 Pending on the file of the 24th Add. City Civil Judge at Bangalore (CCH-6) to the 73rd Add. City Civil Judge at Mayohall (CCH-74) wherein the other suits O.S. No. 25010/2020, O.S. No. 25172/2020 and O.S. No. 25610/2013 are pending. You are hereby directed to appear before this CCH-1 City Civil and Sessions Court in person or duly instructed counsel, and defend your case you should also produced all the relevant documents before this court on the aforesaid date without fail failing which the above case will be heard and decided in your absence and will be treated as Ex-parte.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on 27th day of May 2022 at 11 'O' clock, in forenoon** to be show cause against the petitioner failing wherein, the matter will be heard and determined.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 1st day of April 2022.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Name and Address of Advocate : **SYED AHMED** No. 6/10, 1st Floor, Jabbar Complex, Thanisandra Main Road, Opp. ICICI Bank, Bangalore - 77.

MCA REQUIRES BRANCH HEAD

MCA, a Government of Karnataka Enterprise requires a Branch Head for its Delhi Branch office on consultancy basis. The candidate should be result oriented & well experienced in advertising, branding, event management and marketing with excellent communication skills and will be fully responsible for business development in the region. The details can be collected from MCA, No.42, Millers Road, Bengaluru. Ph: 080-22256287/288. Last date for submission: **19.04.2022.**

HDFC BANK | एच डी एफ सी बैंक हम समझें आपकी दुनिया

HDFC Bank Ltd, Ground Floor,Rashtrothana Bhavan, Muncipal No. 3/1, Ward No 77, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560001.

APPENDIX-IV-A

[See proviso to rule 8(6)]

Sale Notice for sale of immovable properties (e-Auction)

e-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrowers and Guarantors that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor), will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **10-05-2022, at 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon** for recovery of **Rs.3333229.27** (Rupees Thirty Three Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Five and Eighty Five paise Only) as on 10.03.2022 in addition to the costs and interest till the date of Sale, due to the HDFC Bank Ltd (Secured Creditor) from **1. Mr. Ramanna Harisha,** S/o Boodihal Ramanna, **2. Mrs. Gayathri Harish** W/o Ramanna Harisha, **(LAN 80630668)**

The reserve price will be Rs **2,84,01,400/-** (Rupees Two Crore Eighty Four lakh One Thousand Four Hundred only). and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs.28,40,140/-** (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Forty Thousand One Hundred and Forty only).

Inspection of the property may be done on **25-04-2022 and 26-04-2022** between 11.00 AM and 4.00.PM.

Description of the Immovable property:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.2410 formed by the Bangalore Development Authority in Kumaraswamy Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore, now comes within the limits of Bruthath Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, having Municipal No. 2410, PID No. 55-360-2410, measuring East to West 18.29 mtrs and North to South 12.19 mtrs, in all measuring 222.95 Sq mtrs , Along with building and bounded on :- East by: Property bearing No, 2387, West by: Road, North by: Property bearing No, 2410/A, South by: Property bearing No, 2409

For Auction Terms and Conditions please visit this link: https://www.hdfcbank.com/content/api/contentstream/723fb80a-2dde-42a3-9793-7ae1be57c87f/Common/Campaign/PDFs/2022/PROCLAMATION-OF-SALE-RAMANNA-HARISH.pdf

For further details Contact Concerned Officials of HDFC BANK LTD., Mr. Shreekara K on 8660389663 or Email: shreekara.k@hdfcbank.com and Officials of M/s. e-Procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) Ahmedabad, Bidder Support Nos : Mr. Ram Sharma -9978591888,Contact no. 079-68136880/68136837, Mo.:+91 9265562821/18 ramprasad@auctiontiger.netor support@auctiontiger.net

Date :**04.04.2022** **Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Place: Bangalore **For HDFC BANK Ltd.,**

Regd.Office : HDFC Bank Limited, HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai - 400013.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
PALAKKAD DIVISION

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Southern Railway/Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

E-TENDER NOTICE No.PGT/OT/06/2022 dated 30.03.2022

Sl. No	Name of work	Approximate Cash value (in Lakhs) ₹	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Completion Period in Months
1	2	3	4	6
1	Divisional Engineer West Palakkad Jurisdiction - Proposed raising of platform No.1 to high level at Vadagara station.	128.94	2,14,500/-	Six
2	Thalassery-Extension of Duty Station Master room at Thalassery Station	8.02	16,000/-	Three
3	Kannur Out sourcing maintenance of water supply distribution system in Kannur for a period of 24 months	10.87	21,700/-	Twenty Four
4	Kannur-Augmentation of water supply at Kannur station & colony by providing pipe line from Kannur South to Kannur	85.52	1,71,100/-	Six
5	Mangalore-Extension of covered shed along with sick line for IOH attention.	238.85	2,69,400/-	Twelve
6	Replacement of mechanically operated points on Main line with point machines at TIRUR and KASARGOD stations with full replacement and Electronic interlocking at Kasargod of Palakkad Division-Construction of Signal & Telecommunication building for provision of Electronic Interlocking and compound wall & drain at Kasargod	62.70	1,25,400/-	Six
7	1) Replacement of mechanically operated points on Main line with point machines at TIRUR and KASARGOD stations with full replacement and Electronic interlocking at Kasargod of Palakkad Division-Provision of Senior Section Engineer/Special Revenue Maintenance office and store room facility, truss roof for Microwave station at Palakkad and Removing mechanical point No.100 yard and CC drain 60 m length at Tirur. 2) Palakkad-Repairs to Deputy Superintendent of Police / office and roof of Govt. Railway Police Post at Palakkad.	43.31	86,600/-	Six
8	Mangalore-Rebuilding of Type II staff quarters 24 units in lieu of Type I Qrs No.95 A-D, 100 A-D, 101 A-D & MH18 A-D, MH 19 A-B, MH 20 A-C & MH 25 A-C- Construction of Type II staff Quarters 8 units at Mangalore Junction.	129.07	2,14,500/-	Eight
9	Provision of TELS boards on bridges for operation of Double headed WDG4G Loco-2021-22	14.76	29,500/-	Two

5) Tender closing date 15.00 hrs on : **Sl. No. 1 to 9: 25.04.2022**

Eligibility criteria for single similar work previously executed	**Item No. 1,5,6 & 8**	**Any Civil Engineering works except Track work / transportation**
	Item No. 4	**Any Civil Engineering work except track work**

Note: 1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time. **2.** Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards. For complete details of the above tenders please visit website: **"http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients **Sri. T.Muniraju S/o. Late. Munivenkatappa @ Thammaiah, Sri. T.Narayana S/o. Late.Munivenkatappa @ Thammaiah, Sri T.Krishnamurthy S/o. Late, Munivenkatappa @ Thammaiah,** Residents of Yelahanka Taluk, Jala Hobli, Hosahalli Village, and **Smt. TJayamma D/o. Late. Munivenkatappa @ Thammaiah,** R/at. Mayasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, have filed **Crl.Misc.No.17/2022** for death certificate of their father is., Sri. Munivenkatappa @ Thammaiah, who was **died on 20-01-2007,** and date of hearing of the case is on **27-4-2022.** If any dispute regarding the same can appear before the Additional Civil Judge at Devanahalli.

By Order of the Court, Sd/- Chief Ministerial Officer
Civil Judge & JMFC Court, Devanahalli
N. Munivenkataswamy, Advocate

QuoteExpress

ONE BOOK, ONE PEN, ONE CHILD, AND ONE TEACHER CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

IN THE COURT OF XVIII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU
C.Mis. No.1632/2022

BETWEEN

1) Santhosh Kumar.R S/o. Late Ramaiah. M. Nadar, Aged about 32 years, Residing at No. 12, 8th Cross, Santhosh Nagar, Pipe Line Road, Bangalore -560 057

2) ARUNA M. RAMAIAH W/o. Gangai Amaran.S Aged about 35 years, Residing at No. 10, 1st Floor, MJ Compelx, Ganganagar, Kaslamman Kovil Street, Kayarembedu, Guduvanchery, Chengalpattu-603 202

3) NISHA. R W/o.Tamilnian. N Aged about 33 years, Residing at No. 48, Brahma Aster Apartment, Rajanagar, 3rd Street, Krishna Colony, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu-641 005 ....Petitioners

AND

The Commissioner Registrar of Births and Deaths, BBMP, Bengaluru ...Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, the petitioner has filed petition for obtaining an order seeking direction to above said respondent authority to enter the death of petitioner's Mother by name **SMT. VASUMATHI. R, W/o. Ramaiah, who was died on 20/04/2009 at No. 433/3, Santhosh Nagar, Ravindra Nagar, Mallasandra, Bangalore-560 057** and accordingly obtain death certificate from the respondent.

If any person interested to file their objection in this matter, may appear **at 11.00 am on 12/04/2022** to which date the case is posted for hearing, before the Hon'ble XVIII ACMM at Bengaluru.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court this 31st Day of March 2022.

By order of the court
Sd/- Sheristedar
XVIII ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAL MAGISTRATE, BENGALURU
Advocate for Petitioner
ARUN KUMAR. M, Advocate, No. 1 & 2 (Upstairs), 25th Cross, Cubbonpet, Bangalore -560 002

BEFORE THE HONOURABLE FAMILY COURT, OTTAPALAM
OP.NO: 130/2020

Sabitha Nirmaladevi, aged 38 years, W/o. Hari Kizhakkeppatt, House No. 5/378, Samskrithi, Gayathri Road, Manisseri P.O. Ottapalam Taluk. Palakkad Dist., Kerala. PIN: 679 521. ....Petitioner

Santhosh John, aged 42 years, S/o. John Harsha Rathnam, Flat No. 202, Skylark Enclave, 5th Main, Jagadish Nagar, New Thippasandra P.O., Bangalore - 560075 ....Respondent

The above case filed by the petitioner against the respondent is posted on 13.04.2022 for the appearance of the respondent. The respondent is hereby informed to appear before the court **on 13.04.2022 at 11am,** failing which the case will be decided in your absence declaring the respondent exparte.

P.N.BALAGOPALAN
Advocate, Ottapalam.
(Counsel for Petitioner.)

Sale of NPG Bauxite & Bauxite Dust

e-AUCTION No. GS/BX/02/2021-22

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited invites applications from interested buyers for purchasing NPG Bauxite & Bauxite Dust through e-Auction from GMDC on "as is where is basis".

NPG Bauxite 1,61,203 MT

Bauxite Dust 1,48,516 MT

The e-Auction will be held in two stages. **Stage 01** will consist of pre-qualification for bidding in e-Auction, based on documents submitted by bidders and **Stage 02** will be for online bidding of offers for individual stacks and successful bidders will be selected based on highest offer price (H1) for the individual stacks.

TENTATIVE TIMELINE OF THIS E-AUCTION

Sr	Event / Activity	Tentative Date
1	Availability of Documents Online for Download from date	7th April, 2022
2	Pre-Bid Meeting at 12:00 noon	10th May, 2022
3	Last Date for Submission of Technical Bid / Documents	19th May, 2022
4	Intimation to Technically Qualified Bidders	30th May, 2022
5	e-Auction Date	8th June, 2022

For detailed documents, interested buyers may visit our websites: **www.nprocure.com** or **www.gmdcltd.com**

For further queries or help, contact General Manager (Marketing & Sales) on **079-27913200/ 6359947641** or email at **sales@gmdcltd.com**

Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Gujarat Enterprise)
Khanij Bhavan, 132 Feet Ring Road,
Near University Ground, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad - 380 052.

EXPLORING LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES

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Union Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje attacked the Congress and JDS accusing them on indulging in 'vote bank politics'. "For both parties, people are just vote bank. They divided people in the name of religion and caste. They did it all these years and the present situation is that they should be searched using torchlight," she told the media in Karkala on Sunday

STRAWS IN THE WIND

Matter of respect, with shoes or without

Many believe that sitting cross-legged in front of elders, teachers and even pontiffs is disrespectful to them. Well, the big two leaders from the national parties were in Karnataka for the Guruvandana and 115th Jayanthotsava of Siddaganga seer Shivakumara swamiji recently. AICC General Secretary in-charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala shared two pictures of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. "The respect & culture of Mutts is to "take off shoes" & not point your "feet towards the Seers". Post you hold doesn't matter. Everyone is equal in the home of Lord Basavanna. HM's action in Siddaganga Mutt is unacceptable," he tweeted. However, some netizens gave lessons that it is disrespectful to sit cross-legged in front of seers and gurus!

Kageri gets a taste of M'luru's summer

The coastal city of Mangaluru turns into a frying pan during summers, and people from pleasant regions like Malnad and Old Mysuru usually avoid visiting it. But Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker **Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri**, who dared to visit the coastal city for an event on electoral reforms on Friday, was left sweating even in the air-conditioned Town Hall. In the midst of his animated speech in the packed hall, he started feeling irritated and asked the organisers to increase the AC cooling. The organisers found that the AC was already at maximum speed. Then they pulled an old pedestal fan and placed it close to the lectern. Though it provided some relief to the Speaker, he was not completely free of irritation as the mike started picking up the fan's wind sound. But the Speaker had no option but to bear with the sound, grin and continue his speech.

Surprise! Shobha keeps away from Mutt

When most of the Union ministers from Karnataka shared the dais with Union Home Minister Amit Shah at Siddaganga Mutt near Tumakuru during the 115th birth anniversary of Sri Shivakumar Swamiji on April 1, the absence of Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare **Shobha Karandlaje** was conspicuous. Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Minister Pralhad Joshi, Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A Narayanaswamy, and New and Renewable Energy and Chemicals and Fertilisers head Bhagwant Khuba were invited as guests, along with the only Congress leader Dr G Parameshwara. From religious heads to leaders, including Shah and Parameshwara, appreciated former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's son B Y Vijayendra, who was the key organiser of the reception committee. Shobha's absence is especially odd as she used to rush to the Mutt at every crucial juncture of her political career.

MLC mishandles emotional fisher folk

Losing his cool proved costly for newly-elected MLC Ganpati Ulvekar, who was at the receiving end from fishermen who had supported him in their own way during elections. Karwar-Ankola MLA Rupali Naik had called for a meeting of officials to discuss various developmental projects. The meeting, on the request of local fishermen, had Sagaramala project on its agenda under the aegis of Fisheries Minister S Angara. As an elected representative, Ulvekar was also present at the meeting. The fishermen became emotional that the project would affect their livelihood. They threatened the government, saying they would commit mass suicide. Ulvekar tried to pacify the fishermen, who were almost in tears, but when they refused to relent, he lost his cool and lashed out at them. The meeting ended abruptly. The fuming fishermen then turned their ire on Ulvekar.

CM to brief BJP top brass on state budget

Bommai likely to visit Delhi after April 5, to meet Modi, Shah, Nirmala, may also discuss Cabinet reshuffle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister **Basavaraj Bommai** is likely to visit New Delhi for two days after April 5 and meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Niramala Sitharaman and their cabinet colleagues to present copies of his maiden and last full-fledged budget of the BJP government before the 2023 Assembly polls.

As his Tamil Nadu counterpart MK Stalin met Modi on Thursday and sought the extension of GST compensation to states by another two years beyond June 2022, Bommai's meeting with Nirmala will be more significant as he is the chairman of Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rationalisation. Bommai will explain the essence of his budget and its repercussions on the government and the party to the national leadership. He also has to impress on the central leadership to release the grant-in-aid to the state.

Bommai, who held an all-party meeting on inter-state water disputes and also piloted a unanimous resolution condemning Tamil Nadu's resolution against the Mekedatu project, is also likely to meet Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

It is interesting to see whether he will also call on Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav, who is close to Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and is in the know of political affairs concerning Karnataka.

Cabinet reshuffle and appointments to boards and corporations to give a 'fresh' administrative look to his government may also come up during Bommai's Delhi visit.

BJP committee to appreciate Bommai

The state BJP executive committee meeting slated to be held on April 16 and 17 at Vijayanagara is likely to pass a resolution appreciating Bommai's budget, calling it development-oriented. Party's national president J P Nadda will inaugurate the meeting which will be held at Tourism Minister Anand Singh's residence.

Singh had met KPCC president DK Shivakumar at the latter's residence in Bengaluru recently. The BJP executive committee meeting at Singh's residence is to send out a message that he is not quitting the party, especially after its performance in four states, sources said.

Govt controlled fuel prices with eye on recent polls: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Congress on Sunday hit out at the BJP-ruled Union Government over soaring fuel prices, inflation, unemployment, among other issues.

In a joint press conference with KPCC president DK Shivakumar, former chief minister Siddaramaiah, who is also Congress Legislature Party leader, said though the BJP government claims that oil companies are autonomous bodies and increase fuel prices based on international crude oil prices, the Modi-led government at the Centre was manipulating oil companies.

"Oil companies had last raised fuel prices in November 2021 and it was not increased till the end of March 2022 keeping elections to five states in mind. Now, prices of petrol and diesel have increased by Rs 7.2 per litre in the last 12 days. Then, how can we say that the government has no control over the oil companies in deciding the prices?" thundered Siddaramaiah. Domestic LPG price was increased by Rs 50 and commercial LPG by Rs 250, the Badami MLA added. "Why did the oil companies not increase prices between November, 2021 and March 2022 even when the crude oil prices spiked internationally?" he asked. Hinting at using the issue of price rise as a poll plank ahead, both the Congress leaders also spoke about increase in the prices of fertilisers, farm equipment and also essential medicines by almost 10 per cent.

CLP leader Siddaramaiah and KPCC chief DK Shivakumar address the media in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

"BJP is misleading people to divert their attention from the issues of fuel price hike, inflation, unemployment, and farmers' plight. The BJP's main weapon to divert people's attention is raking up communally sensitive issues and instilling venomous thoughts in people", Siddaramaiah added. The decline in law and order in Karnataka has resulted in the state missing out on lakhs of crores of investments, he added. Siddaramaiah also criticised the government for putting the blame on the Covid-19 pandemic for increasing taxes.

"CM Basavaraj Bommai has claimed to have spent Rs 15,000 crore to fight Covid-19 in the last two years. Compared to our budget size, Rs 15,000 crore is negligible. Kerala has spent Rs 40,000 crore. The budget size of Kerala is much lesser than that of Karnataka's. BJP has failed to increase capital investments too," he elaborated.

Shivakumar said that the Congress state unit will hold statewide protests over inflation and skyrocketing fuel prices. On the Congress' digital membership drive, he said, "The deadline was March 31. It has now been extended for a couple of weeks more. So far, 63 lakh people have joined the Congress through this drive."

BJP's policies have made poor poorer: Satish

BELAGAVI: KPCC working president and MLA, Satish Jarkiholi, on Sunday said the police of the BJP have made the poor poorer. Addressing the media in Belagavi, Satish said prices of fuel and other essential commodities will continue to rise till the BJP is power."The policies of the BJP have increased affected the poor. Making the poor poorer is their agenda. The Modi-led BJP government is not responding to the pleas of common people," he added. Satish said that the Congress in the state was ready to face the polls to the Karnataka Assembly. "We will not announce the CM candidate but will face the elections collectively. We have discussed our preparations for the elections with our leader Rahul Gandhi who visited Karnataka recently. Our party is ready whenever the elections are declared," he said. "Training has been mandatory to party workers. It has become difficult to survive in the present political scenario without proper training," he added.ENS

Ex-Bengaluru top cop Bhaskar Rao to join AAP

ENS@ Bengaluru

IN a big boost to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) efforts to strengthen its organisation in Karnataka ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, former Bengaluru City Police Commissioner **Bhaskar Rao** will join the party on Monday.

Rao, who took voluntary retirement after serving as an Indian Police Service officer for 32 years, will join AAP in the presence of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and AAP Karnataka Convenor Prithvi Reddy at the AAP's Delhi office.

"Last trip home after curtains down on 32 years in IPS. I have extreme gratitude to my family, the people of Karnataka and all my colleagues, friends, elders and young people in my life and finally the Governments of Karnataka across parties. Heading into choppy seas," (Sic) Rao tweeted on Friday evening.

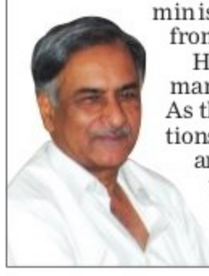
Sources said the former ADGP-rank officer will play an important role in preparing the party for the Assembly polls. He will tour the state along with other senior leaders ahead of the elections and is likely to contest from Basavanagudi in South Bengaluru, sources said.

While the party has already started preparations for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike elections that are likely to be held this year, its stupendous performance in the recent Punjab polls has enthused its leaders to prepare for the Assembly polls in Karnataka. AAP hopes to provide a real alternative to BJP and Congress in Karnataka. The party had contested the Assembly and the Lok Sabha elections in the state earlier, but had failed to make a mark.

Horatti close to several BJP leaders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

SOON after Horatti became the chairman of the Upper House, there was speculation that he would join BJP as he is close to Union minister Pralhad Joshi, former chief minister Jagadish Shettar and other leaders from the party.



Horatti said that JDS senior leader HD Kumaraswamy has given his nod to the decision. As the state is heading towards Assembly elections next year, many leaders are quitting JDS and joining other parties, depleting the party's base in North Karnataka. Former MLA N H Konaraddi recently joined Congress, while Rajanna Koravi joined BJP.

ENSURE NICE LTD COMPLIES WITH SC ORDERS, GOWDA TELLS GOVT

ENS @ Bengaluru

FORMER Prime Minister and JDS supremo HD Deve Gowda on Sunday urged CM Basavaraj Bommai to ensure that Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Ltd (NICEL) complies with the Supreme Court orders while implementing the Bengaluru- Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor project.

In his letters (dated January 21, February 6 and April 2) to Bommai, Gowda stated that the SC has categorically held that no residential developments are permissible on the lands acquired and handed over to the company or its assignee for the toll road.

All 6,999 acres of toll road lands would revert in toto to the State Government at the end of the concession period of 30 years, Gowda said. "It is not clear why the State Government has not taken action in accordance with the law to cancel the sale deed executed in favour of the company in respect of toll road lands," he added.

Gowda also demanded that the State Government order an inquiry over officials responsible for payment of Rs 14 crore compensation to the company for non-FWA (Frame Work Agreement) lands acquired for the Metro project.

He also urged the government to cancel the Cabinet approval permitting the company to collect toll until it fulfilled its obligation to convert the toll road to rigid pavement in accordance with the technical requirements.

Govt to set up fertiliser plant to address shortage

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mangaluru

LARGE and Medium Scale Industries Minister **Murugesh Nirani** on Sunday said that the State Government plans to open a fertiliser industry at an estimated cost of Rs 7000 crore.

Addressing the media at SCDCC Bank, Nirani said that they have shortlisted three cities — Davanagere, Belagavi and Mangaluru for the project, of which Mangaluru will get priority. The project will create around 10,000 jobs and the industry will be set up with the help of the Union Government, he added.

"The plan is to address fertiliser shortage in Karnataka. Also, we have plans to set up an export promotion industrial park at an estimated cost of Rs 64 crore creating around 5000 jobs. The project requires 1,000 acres of land and the government has already identified 100 acres of land in Balkunje, Ulepady and Kollur in Dakshina Kannada. SCDCC Bank chairman Dr MN Rajendra Kumar's support to agriculture and industries is commendable and he has extended support to invest for the fertilizer park which will create jobs in this region," he said.

He added that to attract investors, the government is holding the Global Investors' Meet in Bengaluru from November 2 to 4. "As part of the investors meet, we will hold road shows in other states. Government will encourage MBA, MTech graduates for startups. The first programme will be organised in Kalaburagi, Bengaluru and Belagavi. Apart from it, industrial adalats will also be conducted and resolve issues related to any business at people's doorsteps," he added.

Responding to media queries on many industries denying jobs for locals in Mangaluru, the minister said that there is a provision to take action by the Labour Department if any industry denies jobs to locals as per Sarojini Mahishi recommendations. "MRPL and other companies functioning in Mangaluru must follow the recommendations," he said.

GUEST COLUMN

Patriarchy sets dress code, time to look at hijab issue through 'gender lens'

THE events surrounding an Udupi school imposing sanctions on six Muslim girl students wearing hijab (headscarf) have opened up several questions, which need to be examined beyond religious identity and allegiance. In a society where the dichotomy between 'freedom of choice' and 'religion-backed restrictions on women's freedom' has existed for centuries, one must remember that inter-group tensions being created by certain forces can neither be treated as isolated incidents, nor are they to be dismissed as region-specific responses to undercurrents of intolerance flowing in the socio-political life. A sensitive examination of the trajectory of events that followed the Udupi school incident brings out the fact that certain basic questions which should have been raised and discussed have been sidelined.

Notwithstanding the fact that the secular fabric of our society is under threat, new and unsuspecting groups, which include school children, youth groups, and many others who don't even know what is actually happening, are being drawn into a trap created by the hidden 'divisive' agenda of groups whose primary goal is to reinforce patriarchal power hierarchies.

In the euphoria created by forces that are using religion as a setting for polarisation, the play of factors that surround the gendered lives of girls and women are not receiving the kind of attention they merit. The whole issue is being projected either as a clash between two religious groups or a 'cultural war' in which certain forces within each group are trying to argue that to protect one's culture, 'dress codes' and 'spatial exclusion' are to be enforced on women and girls. Both these points of view are not based on facts. What is true is that throughout patriarchal history, women's bodies have been used as a site of control by men, and cutting across religious identities, notions and practices of purity and pollution have been imposed on them.

FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSE

Dual standards of morality have been determining what women and girls should wear or not wear, and with whom they can or cannot interact. Male-centric values have drawn boundaries for women's physical and social mobility, as the female body is seen as being vulnerable to sexual abuse. In her work entitled 'Two Bodies', Mary Douglas talks of a 'social body' that imposes restrictions on the perceptions of the 'physical body'. One's clothing is not always a matter of one's choice and it is not what girls or women want and feel comfortable in, which determines what they can wear, but it is the 'social body' grounded in a patriarchal mindset that decides their clothing patterns. School uniforms are also reflections of gender identity and are often designed to remind girls of their 'femininity'. Patriarchy explicitly and implicitly sets dress codes, which are often imposed on girls. However, the same rigidity is not seen vis-a-vis male clothing.

Preventing girls, whichever social group they may be identified with, from pursuing their educational aspirations, is tantamount to violation of their right under Article 15 of the Constitution of India, which prohibits gender-based discrimination. Girls' education suffered a serious setback due to Covid-19 imposed school closures, leading to many girls either staying away from school or being married at an inappropriate age. There is now a growing concern that gender gaps in education would intensify and that girls are at a greater risk than boys in losing school access, and this is especially true of adolescent girls. With many schools in online mode, an estimated 40 per cent of girls could not afford mobile phones, and there was a lapse back into an uncertain state. This is especially true of many Muslim girls, who had stepped out of their homes for the first time, and were hoping that education would bring about a change in their lives. It is time that all right-thinking people look at the issue from a gender lens and set the situation right.

R Indira,
retired professor, Sociology, University of Mysore

Eviction practices in Chennai are set to change for the better with the Tamil Nadu government acknowledging the need for a more dignified process. On Saturday and Sunday, in the resumed eviction drive in RK Nagar, houses will not be demolished until the entire settlement is relocated, and private packers and movers are engaged for the first time

Hyd cops bust 'rave party' at top pub, net celebrities

148 attendees, including 31 women, detained; pub owner held

PRIYA RATHNAM @ Hyderabad

IN a pre-dawn raid, Hyderabad police busted a 'rave party' where drugs were consumed at the Pudding and Mink Pub of the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel in Banjara Hills and detained 148 people, including 31 women.

Those detained include actress Niharika Konidela, Andhra Pradesh MP Jayadev Galla's son Galla Siddharth and Tollywood singer Rahul Siplugunj. However, the police allowed them to leave after collecting their details.

The police also arrested the pub partner Abhishek Vuppala and manager Mahadaram Anil Kumar under NDPS Act. Arjun Veeramachineni, also associated with the pub and the rave party, is on the run.

West Zone DCP Joel Davis said that it was probable that 90 per cent of those present in the pub at the time of the raid could be innocent and only a handful of them would have consumed drugs.

Samples are yet to be collected from them and all the 148 persons who were in the pub would be summoned as part of the investigation.

Incidentally, the DCP refused to divulge the name of six more persons who are believed to be high-profile customers, stating that only the names of the arrested persons are revealed and other names would be revealed at a later stage.

Actor Nagababu Konidela's daughter Niharika at the Banjara Hills police station on Sunday | EXPRESS

Task Force sleuths raided the pub after being tipped off about the increased volume of cars towards the hotel after 1 am every day.

Five grams of cocaine was seized from the spot, while it's alleged that weed also made rounds on the party floor. The NDPS Act notifies 2 grams as 'small quantity'.

Davis said that the management of the pub allowed only elite and select customers access to the establishment with an intention of earning money and running the establishment till 4 am. An app is also maintained wherein a code is generated for each customer who is then allowed to enter only after showing the code. After entry , drugs were supplied using code names like 'Bro', 'Stuff', 'Coke' and 'Ice', said a police source.

Son innocent, says BJP leader

Hyderabad: BJP leader Vuppala Sarada, whose son Vuppala Abhishek was arrested by task force on charges of organising the drug-fuelled rave party at Pudding and Mink Pub on Saturday night, claimed her son was innocent. "He only organised the party as one of the pub partners which was taken on lease," she said. Sarada questioned why was her son being indicted for the drugs brought into the party by guests, also wondering why 148 guests who were at the party were allowed to go without their samples being tested for drugs. This could have revealed exactly who had consumed drugs there, the saffron leader opined. She clarified that those managing the pub were hired by the previous owners of the pub, and that her son Abhishek had organised the party only as a partner. She has urged the media not to spread "false news" about her son and requested the police not to harass him.

DMK man murdered inside bus stand

SAHAYA NOVINSTON LOBO @ Chennai

A 58-year-old DMK functionary was hacked to death by an unidentified gang inside Broadway bus stand on Sunday morning.

According to the police, the deceased has been identified as **J Soundararajan**, resident of Appasamy street, Tondiarpet was a DMK functionary, who was formerly a district functionary with the AIADMK. Police said he runs a juice shop near the bus stand.

"At 8 am Soundarajan arrived at the Broadway bus stand and was working on the watershed when around 9 am, a four-member gang on two motorbikes reached the location from two directions. Soundarajan and other DMK cadres, who knew the suspects, started to run," said a senior police officer.

The gang chased Soundarajan and blocked him on the platform near the watershed and stabbed him with machetes several times. The panicked commuters and MTC workers started to run in different directions. The information was passed to the Flower Bazaar police station, located just 300 metres away.

After leaving Soundarajan in a pool of blood, the suspects fled. Soundarajan died beside the water stall which was installed by the DMK cadres, a couple of days ago. He was taken to the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital and was declared dead on arrival. Police said Soundarajan had 12 deep-stab wounds on his face, neck and stomach.

This is the fourth DMK functionary to be murdered in the past 32 days.

The Esplanade police registered a case and said that they have accessed CCTV footage to trace the accused.

Inquiries revealed there was an enmity between Soundarajan and another AIADMK functionary in the locality since the deceased changed party allegiance a few months ago, said police. Recently there was a tussle where harsh words were exchanged between the AIADMK functionary and Soundarajan regarding posters and llustrations on a wall.

According to a police source, the Flower Bazaar police called the two men and tried to resolve the fight. However, a couple of days later, both AIADMK and DMK functionaries had an heated argument on the setting up of the watershed.

Police suspect that since Soundarajan managed to arrange the watershed inside the bus stand, the other group might have been angry and murdered for revenge. Further investigation is on.

MONTH OF FORGIVENESS

An illuminated Mecca Masjid on the first day of the holy month of Ramzan in Old Hyderabad on Sunday | EXPRESS

New AP districts to come into force today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayawada

CHANGING the map of Andhra Pradesh, the government issued notification late Saturday night reorganising the State from 13 to 26 districts. Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy would inaugurate the new districts on Monday.

Simultaneously, the government issued orders appointed collectors and police heads to the 26 districts. While two districts -- Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam – will have Commissioners of Police, the remaining 24 will have superintendents of police.

Reorganisation of the 13 districts to 25 with each Parliamentary segment as a district was one pre-poll promise of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. During the process of reorganisation, the government decided to carve out a district with tribal areas as a separate one and created the Alluri Sitarama Raju district taking the total number to 26.

The State government, which issued a draft notification in January this year, received more than 17,000 suggestions and objections and has made some minor changes to the draft.

Hoysala king's grave found, Mudigere admin to write to Archaeology dept

The area indicated by the standing stones is believed to be the grave's location | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chikkamagaluru

OLD Shashakapura and now called Angadi village in Mudigere taluk was the origin of Historically famed Hpoysala dynasty. Fourth king of Hoysala dynasty Vishnuvardhana was most famous and his grave has been discovered just outside Mudigere town. This fact is substantiated by the Havvalli stone inscription and the writings of freedom fighter Late Makonahalli MK Doddappa Gowda.

Scribes who got three books related to complete history of Shashakapura Hoysals, went on to do research on the last days of Hoysala king Vishnuvardhana.

According to the information obtained from the book that though Vishnuvardhana's original capital was Dwarasamudra (presently called Halebeedu), he made Bankapura in North Karnataka another capital. Vishnuvardhana died an untimely death when he was in Bankapura. in 1141 AD.

His mortal remains were being brought to the capital city Dwarasamudra on palace elephant accompanied by horses carrying royal wealth and soldiers. The procession was said to be stopped by Bannagowda and Bhoothegowda of Mariyalapalli, chieftains of Taligenadu near Sundekere Halla in Mudigere taluk. A war was ensued between the two and Bhoothegowda was reportedly killed in the fight.

Binnegowda seized palace elephant and looted royal wealth. Following this, Vishnuvardhana's body was buried near Sundekere halla and four stone pillars were erected on the grave.

One of the stone pillars was broken by lightning and other 3 pillars are intact on the site. It is left to historians to throw more light on this.

The taluk administration head MA Nagaraj and Shirastahar Santhosh recently paid a visit to the place where Vishnuvardhana's grave is supposed to be located. Tahsildar promised that he would write to the Archaeology department to reveal more about the grave.

GO GREEN

Involving agri varsities a good initiative

CONTINUED FROM P1

SRINIVAS Reddy, former director and scientific officer, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre (KSNDMC), said, ''With chemical-based farming, the flora and fauna, including insects and worms, that helped maintain a healthy soil have been killed. Natural farming can bring back the fertility of the soil and increase production. The carbon content has come down drastically. It is now or never."

Reddy said it is a good initiative to involve agriculture universities in taking up the study. "The major challenge will be to take the university research to farmers. Farmers will adopt it only if better results are shown," he added.

EXPRESS READ

6 months not enough for capital : AP to HC

VIJAYAWADA: Developing Amaravati capital city and capital region in six months time is not possible, the State Government informed the High Court of Andhra Pradesh in a counter affidavit filed on Friday. The state filed the counter-affidavit urging the court to either remove the time frame for the implementation of its orders or extend it to five years.

Bank evicts girls when parents in hosp; residents led by MLA break open lock

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @KOCHI

IN a dramatic incident, Muvattupuzha MLA Mathew Kuzhalnadan accompanied by Congress workers and local residents broke open the lock of a house within hours after the authorities of a bank sealed the property after evicting two minor girls when their parents were in the hospital.

It all began when the officials of Muvattupuzha Urban Co-operative Bank attached the property of the family belonging to a backward community and sealed the house around 1pm on Saturday. They asked the twin sisters to vacate their house located at Paipra panchayat's ward 12 in Muvattupuzha. The reason: their father Ajeesh, who is undergoing treatment for a heart ailment at a hospital, had defaulted on a Rs 1-lakh loan.

Congress MLA Kuzalnadan with the Class 10 girls | EXPRESS

When the attachment was executed with the police's help, their mother was also at the hospital while their two younger sisters were at a relative's place.

The incident drew flak from the residents nearby who informed Congress MLA Kuzalnadan about the fact that the two Class 10 girl students had no place to go. Kuzhalnadan along with local residents smashed open the lock of the house around 9pm on Saturday and took the children inside. The MLA said he had waited for over an hour for the bank employees.

111 MBBS, BDS All-India Quota govt seats still vacant

SINDUJA JANE @ Chennai

EVEN after the mop-up round counselling to fill the All India Quota (AIQ-states) MBBS and BDS seats by the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) of the Union Health Ministry, 111 State government seats remain vacant.

According to data from State Selection Committee, 85 MBBS seats and 26 BDS seats remain vacant after the mop up round. These 111 seats have been placed by the Union Health Ministry for the stray-vacancy round counselling'. (There are four rounds of counselling -- Round 1 and Round II of All India Quota; mop-up round; and stray-vacancy round.)

The seats are vacant even at AIIMS-Madurai, and government medical colleges in Chennai. At AIIMS-Madurai, 15 seats remain vacant, while 5 remain vacant at Government Stanley Medical College in Chennai. Madras Medical College has two seats, and Government Omandurar Medical College and Government Kilpauk Medical College have one each.

Dr P Vasanthamani, Secretary of State Selection Committee, said that, this year, as per the Supreme Court order, it is holding even a stray-vacancy round.

Police shoot rape accused on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MOHAMMED Awez, the accused in the DJ Halli rape case who had escaped from police custody, was shot at and arrested by the police on Saturday after he allegedly attacked a police constable who tried to nab him.

Police said the 22-year-old history-sheeter was absconding after escaping from police custody and the police received specific information that he was hiding at an isolated place in Vyalikaval. On Saturday early morning, a police team led by inspector Kiran Kumar went to secure him. "The accused was spotted and the police surrounded him. In a bid to escape, Awez attacked constable Arun Kumar with a dagger. Despite being warned to stop, Awez tried to flee and the inspector opened fire at him injuring his leg," the police said, adding that both the injured constable and the accused were rushed to hospital.

Awez was arrested on charges of raping a woman after barging into her house, when her husband, a security guard, had gone to work. A mechanic by profession, Awez has 28 cases against him and was banished from the city.

SELF-SUFFICIENT WOMEN

35 women clear silt from lakes, transform Kolar village

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru/ Kolar

IT took an NGO and a 35-strong workforce, a majority of whom were women, to transform the parched Pichaguntlahalli in Kolar district. By clearing silt from Hosakere and Gottakere lakes in the village, they have ensured sufficient water for farmers to grow two crops of paddy this year and their work has also improved the groundwater table.

The village, 16 km from Kolar, falls under the Omittur Gram Panchayat. When many labour-intensive jobs dried up during Covid, S Asha, founder-secretary of NGO ₹Arohaana Grameena Abhivrudhi Samasthe', proposed to the residents to take up manual clearing of feeder canals from two lakes and also offered them wages. The proposal, which would also give them water, was taken up seriously by the villagers.

Asha told TNIE, "Within three months, four canals were desilted. Silt running for 1,200 metres in Gottakere and 2,600 metres in Hosakere was removed. With good rains in Kolar last year, the work done by the women has directly or indirectly improved the lives of all the 686 residents in the village."

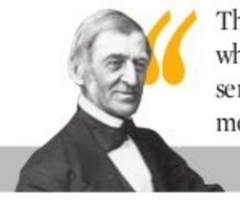
The group of women who cleared the feeder canals of the two lakes in a village in Kolar district | EXPRESS

She said, "We trained 35 individuals, of whom 31 were women, in desilting. They understood the rationale behind desilting the lake. Using earthmovers, 4,950 cubic metres of soil was removed from the feeder canals. We ensured that the soil was not wasted and was used in the fields."

With the groundwater table increasing and thereby improving the yield in the borewells, it also helped farmers sowing tomatoes, green chillies and other vegetables, Asha said. The Rotary Lakeside, Kolar and Bengaluru branches, and IIIT Bengaluru supported them.

Field Coordinator Narayana Swami said, "With the second yield of paddy in their fields, thanks to water from the lake, the families in and around the lake will become self-sufficient."

EDITORIAL



The thing has done avails, and not what is said about it. An original sentence, a step forward, is worth more than all the censures

Ralph Waldo Emerson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BJP-JD(U) PROXY WAR IN BIHAR LIKELY TO CONTINUE

All is not well between the BJP and Janata Dal (United), the two parties running the coalition government in Bihar. The BJP is the larger of the two parties with more MLAs in the state Assembly but had to give the post of chief minister to the JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar who was the face of their alliance—the National Democratic Alliance (NDA)—in the elections. The BJP's unease over letting the junior partner run the show comes out time and again in statements and public spats between the two parties.

The latest instance of the not-so-happy relationship between the alliance partners was the floating of Nitish Kumar's name for Vice-Presidentship of India, the election for which is scheduled to be held in July this year. The BJP is keen on taking over the leadership of the alliance in Bihar. That is not possible unless Nitish Kumar relinquishes the post of chief minister. Nitish is in no mood to move out of the state. Definitely not for vice-presidentship. But that doesn't stop the BJP from making indirect offers. The party knows that asking Nitish to step down from the chair of chief minister would send him straight into the arms of the opposition, thereby causing the fall of the NDA government. It, therefore, resorts to making indirect offers with the hope that one of them may catch Nitish's fancy. But like the ones before, the latest attempt to lure Nitish out of the state has been met with resolute refusal to budge. Nitish Kumar's confidant and Bihar minister Sanjay Jha reacted angrily to reports that the CM would move out of the state. In a series of tweets, Jha termed the reports mischievous and far from the truth. He said Nitish Kumar was the face of the NDA in 2020 Assembly polls and he will complete his full term. He asked those who were indulging in the propaganda to desist from it, and said it would yield little.

The proxy war between allies is likely to continue; the BJP may continue to rock the boat in Bihar but is unlikely to take any decisive action. This is because the party's central leadership is focused more on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in which Nitish will play a critical role in delivering Bihar to the NDA kitty.

FIRE OF INFLATION IS BURNING INDIA

There is a strong case for the government to wake up to the need to douse the fire of inflation. The sustained growth of fuel prices is now pinching one and all. Neither the government nor the Reserve Bank of India can remain aloof to the concerns of Inflation anymore.

Even as it prepares for another round of monetary policy committee meeting later this week, the RBI seems to have got it all wrong when it predicted a rather benign inflation, at least in the short-term. In its 10 February 2022 policy statement, it had predicted 5.7% retail inflation in the fourth quarter of 2021-22 and 4.9% in the first quarter of 2022-23. These predictions will be off the target by a large margin. While the RBI cannot be blamed for not seeing the sudden turn of events at the Russia-Ukraine border and its aftermath, most analysts had agreed then also that the central bank's inflation estimates were too optimistic. Accordingly, the RBI kept its policy stance dovish. This has to change, quickly. Interest rates need to be increased and its stance has to be changed to be less accommodative.

The government, on its part, has to seriously think of another round of excise duty cuts—the last time it reduced the taxes on fuel in November. Despite this, the government will end up with as much excise duty collections in 2021-22 as in the previous year, when it collected a record ₹3.9 lakh crore. In the new financial year, the government must be ready to take some hit on its revenues from fuel. According to Nomura, tax cuts similar to those in November 2021 would cost the government anywhere around ₹1.2 lakh crore. Of course, it can hope to make good some of those losses by a robust pick-up in GST and direct tax collections. The IPO of LIC, which could not be done in 2021-22, may also give some cushion to the government as far as its revenues are concerned. Unless the government does something about the inflation, the consumption growth would remain precarious, delaying the full recovery of the economy.

In India, it is very difficult to stop a bad economic idea whose time has come, but there is a need for a rigorous assessment of the quality of expenditures by various state governments

THE NEED FOR EVALUATION OF FISCAL POLICIES

KARAN BHASIN

New York-based economist

SOUMYADIP SINHA

There are several interesting topics to think about, ranging from the state of the global economy to the impact of the ongoing Ukraine conflict on the Indian economy or the developments in Sri Lanka. Each of these are deserving of a dedicated column of their own—and in many instances, even deserving of a proper paper or book. But today we are going to revert to the issue of fiscal prudence, considering that several state governments are contemplating a Pay-As-You-Go type pension plan.

The Pay-As-You-Go is an interesting approach towards social security. The central idea is that the government collects pension payments today and uses it to fund social security benefits of the existing old or entitled population. The idea is an interesting one when you have a growing population that ensures there are more young people at any given point of time than the old who are entitled to get social security benefits. However, if the opposite happens, then the government will have to fund the gap between the promised benefits and the social security contribution collected from people.

It is well recognised that India is also ageing, as are most other countries. As a matter of fact, the global population is set to peak and we will eventually be in a situation where population levels will stabilise and start reducing. Therefore, it is evident that a Pay-As-You-Go scheme makes limited sense. In fact, it is in many ways a guaranteed fiscal drag on the state government's balance sheets, which would restrict their ability to spend on necessary infrastructure. But Pay-As-You-Go is just one of the many bad economic ideas that have often become policies and been perpetuated by various state governments.

An equally bad idea is the power subsidy, originally intended for the farmers. In New Delhi, this was further extended to everyone. The consequence? Since the subsidy is up to 400 units, many houses have taken multiple electricity meters to claim the maximum subsidy amount. The subsidy therefore does not necessarily reach to all those who deserve it and it has been subject to leakages as with other similar kinds of programs. When it comes to subsidies and populist policies, we must remember the old saying that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. In the Indian context, we should perhaps just modify it to fiscal hell and the rest of it captures the state of our governments' economic policies.

A more prudent way of giving the same electricity subsidy would be to make a per household monthly cash transfer using the Direct Benefit Transfer mechanism. This DBT-subsidy would reduce leakages and enable better targeting of such benefits given that this is a kind of rebate on the electricity costs. Ultimately, to reduce electricity costs one must subsidise solar infrastructure for houses and look at ways to improve competition between power distribution companies.

But in India, it is very difficult to stop a bad economic idea whose time has come; the power subsidy is unfortunately one of the many such ideas. People often forget that India underinvests in public goods such as policing, fire fighting services or any other urban governance. Until recently, investments in healthcare infrastructure were also inadequate and most state governments spend less on education. The case of Delhi is also a peculiar one as the state's expense on education has gone up but the outcomes have not improved substantially, indicating a need for an evaluation of the performance of fiscal expenditures in the sector. More importantly, the lack of an adequate science stream in close to one-third schools indicates that the priority has been skewed towards "model" schools rather than a broad-based reform of the sector. Similarly, mohalla clinics are another area where substantial fiscal resources were devoted in Delhi. These clinics are similar to primary healthcare centres across the country. However, these clinics were not of any assistance during the pandemic, which raises questions about the efficacy of fiscal resources devoted to them.

> Here's hoping that state governments too begin their assessment regarding the quality of their spending. Ultimately, India's growth will come from its states and therefore, good fiscal spending by them to promote economic growth will help our nation's growth

The underlying point here pertains to the need for a rigorous assessment of the quality of expenditures by various state governments. That such an assessment is not done by the states nor by the commentariat is a great tragedy that leads to perpetuation of policies without any evaluation. No wonder on many development outcomes we lag, and even where we do seem to be doing well we are unable to identify the causes behind our success.

All is not as gloomy as it may appear to the reader, as several states have initiated dashboards to provide real time data for evaluation of progress. Economist Rahul Bajoria incidentally mentioned "dashboard governance" becoming well entrenched in Indian policymaking, which will make a departure from the convention going forward. The Union government has incidentally made several dashboards for its key initiatives while the finance ministry has also started preparing a detailed outcomes report to accompany its Union Budget as a supplement to the expenditure Budget. Here's hoping that state governments too begin their assessment regarding the quality of their spending. Ultimately, India's growth will come from its states and therefore, good fiscal spending by them to promote economic growth will help our nation's growth.

(karanbhasin95@gmail.com)

UNDERSTANDING ICONOGRAPHY OF SHIVA-EKAPADA-MURTI

SAURABH SAXENA

Founder of Puratattva, a documentation of heritage sites

An image of a god is conceptualised either as *nishkala* (non-manifest) or *sakala* (manifest) and sometimes a combined form. While a *nishkala* image is generally appropriate for yogis, allowing them to meditate with closed eyes, a *sakala* image is suitable for commoners. Mahesha-murti is the *sakala* image of Lord Shiva and the Lord manifests from it in his various forms representing different *lilas* (divine play) in *saumya* (pacific) or *raudra* (terrific) character. The Vatulasuddhagama provides a list of 25 manifestations of the Mahesha-murti. Shiva-Ekapada-murti (single leg image) is one such manifestation that stands out as an interesting and unique icon. The origins of the Shiva-Ekapada-murti are much obscured.

There have been suggestions connecting it with the Aja-Ekapada of the Vedic period. Aja-Ekapada, translated as "the unborn with one foot" or "one-footed with goat's head", is mentioned in the *Rig Veda* and *Atharva Veda*. However, it is very rare to see the Ekapada-murti depicted with a goat's head. Resemblances of the single foot of the Ekapada-murti with a pillar-like structure have also been suggested as a connection with the *yupa* (sacrificial altar) of Vedic rites, *skambha* (eternal pillar or axis mundi), *linga*, etc. While these connections take the antiquity of the icon to the Vedic period, there have been no clear details about it in the later texts such as epics, Puranas, etc.

Images of Shiva-Ekapada-murti are concentrated in the temples distributed across the states of Odisha (including the parts of present-day Andhra Pradesh traditionally included within the Kalinga region) and Tamil Nadu. This icon is otherwise absent elsewhere except for a few stray cases. We observe two different traits in the development of the iconography of the Ekapada-murti; one trait is found in Tamil Nadu and another in Odisha. The iconography of Ekapada-murti in Tamil Nadu, defined as Trimurti-Ekapada-murti in the Uttara-Karanagama, is centred around the idea of Shiva as the supreme deity. As per the *agama*, Ekapada-Trimurti should be standing on his single leg over a *padmapitha* (lotus pedestal). He should have three eyes and four arms. His forearms should be in *varada-mudra* (boon giving) and *abhaya-mudra* (gesture of fearlessness) while his rear arms should be holding a *tanka* and a *trishula* (trident)/*mriga* (deer). Vishnu and Brahma should be shown emerging from Shiva's left and right sides respectively. This specific iconography is centred around the concept of Shiva as the principal deity responsible for the production, preservation and destruction of the world. He is the beginning and end of all means, everything emerging out of Shiva and dissolving into him at the end. Though the concept of stability associated with the *yupa* or axis mundi may be applied in the case of Trimurti-Ekapada, the main theme remains Shiva's supreme authority. Sometimes this icon is also called Tripada-Trimurti, as one leg of each of the three deities is visible in the sculpture. However, it is only the one leg of Shiva that is firmly placed over the ground.

The iconography of Ekapada in Odisha is very different from that of Tamil Nadu. In Odisha, Ekapada is conceived as Ekapada-Bhairava reflecting the *raudra* (terrific) character of Shiva. Tantric influence is very evident in the evolution of this icon as these activities were prevalent in the Odisha region during the early medieval period and Bhairava plays a very important role in the *tantric sadhana*. Ekapada-Bhairava is mostly shown with four arms except in a few rare examples of two-armed images. He sports a short beard, moustache, bulging eyes, open mouth with protruding side teeth, and *uradha-linga* (ithyphallic). In later period images, he is made more fearsome by wearing a garland of skulls, standing over a corpse, etc. The tantric pantheon had been evolved by various transformations created by their yogis for their precise needs to achieve consciousness. The amalgamation of Ekapada and Bhairava appears to be a part of this evolution. For a yogi, whether tantric or otherwise, non-movement or stillness is an essential requirement for his *sadhana* to get his focus on his desired goal. In Ekapada-Bhairava, a *sadhaka* finds stillness and stability, allowing him to focus on his goal.

(L) Tripada-Trimuti in Thyagaraja Temple, Tiruvottiyur, where the main theme is Shiva's supreme authority; (R) Ekapada-Bhairava in Taleshvara Temple, Bhubaneswar

While the earliest Ekapada-Bhairava image in Odisha is from the 8th century CE, these images continue to appear in temples of the 15th century CE. The early period temples of Odisha were greatly influenced by the Pashupata sect and this may be a reason behind the propagation of the Ekapada-Bhairava images as a secondary or guardian deity of the *matrikas* (mother goddesses) or goddess Mahishasuramardini. When the tantric influence started overshadowing the Pashupata influence in the region, Ekapada-Bhairava continued to be revered and worshipped, keeping his status as a secondary deity. With the decline of the tantric practices, images of Ekapada-Bhairava also started seeing a downturn. However, it did not go into oblivion as we continue finding the icon in temples belonging to the last Hindu dynasties of Odisha till the 15th century CE.

(Puratattva.India@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Whims of the leader

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan should have been relieved of his position on Sunday had the voting gone as planned. But both the Speaker and his deputy did not discharge their duties properly. The Parliament was dissolved by President Arif Alvi on the advice of Khan. He is continuing as the prime minister and has shown the world that democracy can function on the whims and fancies of a leader.

PP Sahadevan, Nileshwar

Bilateral ties with Nepal

It is good that the Indian government has reminded Nepal to be more prudent in view of the open borders between the two nations. This was said in light of the unexpected move by Nepal a couple of years ago when it put out a political map that showed three Indian territories as part of its nation. This must be clearly borne in mind by Nepal while trying to establish more bilateral ties with India.

K V Raghuram, Wayanad

Bane of dynastic politics

This is with reference to *Learn from the decline of Sri Lanka* (Apr 3). The author has presented a perfect pen portrait of how nefarious family rule, corruption of the worst kind and a lack of vision and diplomacy has brought an amazing island nation to the brink of collapse. The entire episode should serve as an eye-opener to those supporting dynastic dispensations elsewhere. There is a valuable lesson that leaders of our country too should learn from this incident.

G Nataraja Perumal, Tenkasi

Don't miss opportunity

This is with reference to *Destination India: Capitalising on attention* (Apr 3). The wooing of India by many nations of consequence is an indication of India's enviable position, being the largest democracy and sixth-largest economy. This opportunity must not be missed; the correct diplomatic and economic stand should be taken to make India a nation of reckoning.

Dharmarajan A K, Thalassery

Ignoring people's protests

This is with reference to *The time to put SilverLine project in action is now* (Apr 3). The compulsive mindset of the LDF and its leaders with regard to implementing the K-Rail project is baffling. The way every CPM leader, big or small, behaves, it seems as though they are totally ignoring the popular discomfiture of the general public against the project. If speed were the priority of the government as far as connectivity is concerned, they would have focused more on the present plight of roads in the state. They would also have taken steps to improve the work ethics of the KSRTC. Apart from the enormous investment, the DPR is full of faults and tactical errors that would put a big question mark on the commitment by the state government on the project.

S Lakshmi, Hyderabad

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 58, No. 80 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
India buying Russian crude oil is anti-democracy, a betrayal of the goals of our valiant fighters of the Emergency. Today, KGB official is Russia's dictator

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
We really are a nation of zombies now. We not only tolerate all excesses committed by the govt and the ruling party but stand up and applaud them

Mehbooba Mufti @MehboobaMufti
GoI is running roughshod over dreams of youth in J&K by deliberately introducing arbitrary changes like giving only six-day notice for JKAS Main Exam

BJP aims to fly high with new Gujarat airport

Plans to sweep Saurashtra by inaugurating it just ahead of polls; analysts draw parallels with Noida airport project

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

THE upcoming international airport in the Sourashtra region of Gujarat is gaining the attention of political analysts as the state heads for Assembly polls early next year.

Some of them are comparing the greenfield airport project with the Jewar airport project, located on the outskirts of Delhi NCR, which was launched just ahead of the Uttar Pradesh polls. Even though the ruling BJP in UP had apprehended big losses in the agriculture-dominated western UP, the narrative of development — centred around the mega airport project — woven by the ruling dispensation paid it dividends in the region.

BJP leaders in Gujarat, too, are hopeful that the greenfield airport, being built in Rajkot at a cost of ₹1,405 crore on over 1,032 hectare non-agriculture land, will help it tide over the anti-incumbency among the voters in the parched Saurashtra. The new airport is most likely to be inaugurated a few months ahead of the polls.

The greenfield airport is likely to be inaugurated in August or September this year, said Rajkot DM Arun Mahesh. Its runway length will be around 3,040 metre for B777-300EROR and B747-400 type aircraft to land and take-off safely | TWITTER

The BJP seeks mandate only through good governance. In Gujarat, the works are seen to be believed and the BJP will win almost all seats by virtue of development — Virendra Sachdeva, Good-Governance Cell, BJP

Being the fourth largest city in Gujarat, Rajkot is the commercial hub of Saurashtra.

In the previous Assembly election, the BJP, promising an international airport among other soaps, had won 31 out of 54 seats — including seven out of eight in Rajkot — in Saurashtra. "This time too, if the new airport is completed and dedicated, no doubt, the BJP will have more seats than it had won in the last time," remarked local shopkeeper Ramesh Patel, who claimed to have not voted for the BJP last time but said he would vote for the party if the airport is made operational.

There were several small vendors, bus drivers and college students who eagerly looked forward to the opening of the new airport.

Brajesh Kumar, 35, running a bookstall in Rajkot, said: "We didn't vote for the BJP last time, but will consider it if the airport is opened."

Manu Bhai, 45, a garment seller, said the airport will fetch electoral support to the BJP depending upon it commissioning and who inaugurates it; PM Modi or somebody else.

Virendra Sachdeva, a member of BJP's 'Good-Governance Cell', believes development works such as Rajkot airport would help the party in getting larger electoral support.

POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI

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Email: shahid@newindianexpress.com

UNFAIR ACCESS

PROBE INTO NSE SCAM GETS WIDER

The one-man SEBI probe conducted by whole-time board member Ananta Barua found only one company – OPG Securities – guilty of taking undue advantage by colocating its server in proximity to the NSE server. The CBI is now looking at about 30 brokers who could have had unfair access to the NSE server. The investigative agency is probing them on the basis of a report by the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, which said these 30 brokers made profits to the tune of ₹2,582 crore during 2010-14. Insiders, however, say that the number of brokers who benefited due to the advantage of colocation could be in excess of five dozen. They say the Central agency is sure to discover more names as the probe progresses, and the unfair profits made by these brokers would turn out to be in multiples of the figures revealed so far.

NEW-AGE TECH

GADKARI'S HYDROGEN CAR WOWS, BUT ALSO SHOCKS

It was truly a shock and awe moment when transport minister Nitin Gadkari drove a hydrogen-powered car to Parliament last week. Much of India was awed by the clean fuel Toyota Mirai the minister travelled in, as it held out a promise to free India from expensive and dirty fuel and usher in a new era of cheaper, cleaner technology. But there were some who were shocked by his hydrogen-fuelled outing. They wondered if the technology was tested for its suitability to Indian conditions and whether the car had clearance to run on the streets. The pressure in hydrogen cylinders used in cars is many times more than that in ordinary cylinders. Therefore, these hydrogen-powered Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV) need rigorous testing and multiple approvals before public use. There is no information available as to which authority approved Gadkari's FCEV to be driven into Parliament house. Mirai, which means future in Japanese language, can be secured by carefully calibrated and consistent march on the growth path; not by pulling off a stunt, experts said.

PTI

CARROT & STICK

STORM IN CONGRESS BLOWS OVER, FOR NOW

Interim Congress president Sonia Gandhi appears to have mollified chief dissenters Ghulam Nabi Azad, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Anand Sharma and Manish Tewari. According to sources, Gandhi has offered to renominate Ghulam Nabi and Anand Sharma to the Rajya Sabha, and make Hooda the president of Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee. Manish would be given a party post he has been coveting for long. She met these leaders separately and conveyed her decision to them. The biggest issue, however, remains to be resolved. And that is conducting free and fair organisational elections, including elections for the post of Congress president and Congress Working Committee membership. This issue has been made the central point by leaders such as Kapil Sibal, Shashi Tharoor, Vivek Tankha, Prithviraj Chavan, etc. They have been demanding transparency in decision-making and inner-party democracy. Insiders say the Congress president may take decisions to address some of these concerns. But holding free and fair elections would continue to remain the sticking point between the leadership and dissenters. A temporary truce, however, prevails for now.

AFSPA STIR

Nagas told to not cooperate with security forces

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

THE Naga Students' Federation (NSF) has asked the Nagas to refrain from extending any cooperation to the security forces until the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is repealed or withdrawn completely from the "Naga homeland". The NSF, which is Nagaland's apex students' body, is miffed over the partial withdrawal of the 1958 Act.

"The NSF outright rejects the ploy of Government of India to please some sections of the Northeastern people by lifting the draconian AFSPA from certain pockets of the region while still allowing the inhumane Act to be in operation in almost all parts of the Naga homeland," the students' body said.

The Centre removed the 'disturbed areas notification' vis-a-vis AFSPA from 23 districts and partially from one district of Assam, 15 police station areas of six districts of Manipur and 15 police stations in seven districts of Nagaland with effect from April 1. The Nagas have sizeable populations in Assam, Manipur, Arunachal besides Nagaland. The NSF lamented that a major chunk of the "Naga homeland" was still classified 'disturbed areas'.

"...What yardsticks were used to lift the Act from certain areas of the Northeast within the Naga homeland which have almost perfect law and order records?" the students' organisation asked.

The NSF said it would work hard to ensure that AFSPA was repealed or completely lifted from the entire "Naga homeland" and to achieve this goal, it would undertake a series of democratic agitations in consonance with the aspirations of the Nagas.

'Pandits will return to Kashmir soon'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

STATING that the entire nation is with Kashmiri Pandits, RSS chief **Mohan Bhagwat** on Sunday said they would return to their Valley homes soon. Virtually addressing the Navreh (Kashmiri New year) celebration in Kashmir, Bhagwat said the government is working for creating a conducive atmosphere for the migrant Pandits.

"The time has come for fulfilling the pledge of returning (Pandits) to their native homes in the Kashmir Valley. Pandits live in different countries despite the fact that Kashmir is an integral part of India. We can live anywhere but we cannot forget our homeland," he said.

Speaking about *The Kashmir Files* movie, the RSS chief said the film highlighted the "plight of Kashmiri Pandits" and "spread awareness throughout the world about the Kashmiri Hindu community". "Why we had to be displaced from Kashmir time and again? Whatever our shortcomings may have been, the reason for this is the bigotry of a particular class. And we have the remedy for this bigotry. If we can stay there, we will put an end to the poison of this bigotry," he said, asserting that the removal of Article 370 has paved the way for the return of Pandits.

"Article 370 has been abrogated by our efforts, and this has paved way for our return to our homeland," Bhagwat said, adding that the Pandits will be at their home by next year.

Referring to the Jews creating the Israeli nation, Bhagwat said: "Ignominy of being refugees in own country has to be surpassed with *Sankalp*. Jews for 1,800 years kept their fire alive and attained their goal in the last 100 years," he said.

Efforts are on to make the Pandits live peacefully with their neighbours like they used to before, he said.

SKY FALL

Locals with an unidentified object that several social media users reported seeing falling from the sky on Saturday evening, in Chandrapur district, Maharashtra | PTI

Centre to push key bills in last week of session, Oppn to raise price hike

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

In the last week of the budget session starting Monday, the Opposition is expected to corner the Central government on the issue of price rise even as the latter looks to finish its legislative business.

Sonia Gandhi is scheduled to chair a Congress parliamentary party meeting on Tuesday and the party MPs from both the Houses will attend. The meeting comes as the session draws to an end on April 8 and also will be the first meeting of Congress lawmakers after the party's poor performance in five Assembly elections.

Congress has been attacking the Centre over the increase in fuel prices and rising cost of other essential commodities. However, the party did not hold any meetings with other like-minded parties on common issues as the session started after a break on March 14.

The Centre is scheduled to push key bills for passage. Seven bills, including 'The Criminal Procedure (Identification) Bill' and 'The Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill', have been listed on the agenda of the Rajya Sabha.

The Upper House could see heated debates on the Delhi Municipal Corporation Bill, which proposes the unification of the three municipal corporations, that is slated to be introduced by Home Minister Amit Shah. The bill was passed by the Lok Sabha last week by a voice vote with the Speaker rejecting the amendments moved by the Opposition MPs.

The AAP, which has increased its tally of members in the Rajya Sabha, will take on the government on this legislation as it has alleged that the legislation has been brought before Parliament to delay the municipal elections in the national capital.

The Criminal Procedure Bill is listed for consideration in the Lok Sabha Monday. It allows the collection of biological samples from convicts and certain arrested people.

EXPRESS READ

'No role in deciding court hearing mode'

New Delhi: Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju in a written reply in the Lok Sabha said that the decision whether to follow the virtual mode of court hearing is a matter which falls strictly under the purview of the judiciary and the Centre has no role to play in this matter. "The SC held 2,18,891 virtual hearings till 14.03.2022 since the lockdown," he added.

Concern over populist schemes in states

New Delhi: In a marathon meeting of PM Modi with senior bureaucrats, a few officials raised concern over populist schemes announced by several states, claiming they are economically unsustainable and could take them down the same path as Sri Lanka, sources said on Sunday. Modi held the meeting with secretaries of all departments on Saturday.

Outgoing PSA calls for ease of doing science, industry-research links

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

EASE of doing science must constantly be attended to and the industry must connect with scientific institutions to embark on new research programmes, says K Vijay Raghavan as he signs off as the Centre's Principal Scientific Adviser.

He was appointed PSA in 2018 after retiring as Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, and was given an extension for a year in 2021. His predecessor R Chidambaram was in office for 17 years.

The Office of the PSA was among the key coordinating agencies with various stakeholders during the Covid pandemic to expedite the development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostic kits.

"Ease of doing science must constantly be attended to. Going forward, the country has enormous challenges and opportunities. We stand on solid and broad foundations. Science, technology, and innovation are keys to surmounting hurdles," he said.

"Research and applications in the areas of climate change, the environment, waste and pollution, water, soil, energy, manufacturing, public health, semiconductors, IT, etc. are being amplified in great measure. This can happen effectively only when we come together. Our national labs must functionally integrate with the university system, amplifying their excellence," he said.

CBI no more a caged parrot, performing well: Rijiju

New Delhi: The CBI is no more a "caged parrot" and is performing well as the country's top crime investigation agency, said Union Law minister Kiren Rijiju on Sunday. His remarks comes after CJI NV Ramana said the agency's credibility has come under deep public scrutiny with the passage of time as its actions and inactions have raised questions in some cases. Defending the CBI, the Union minister tweeted, "The CBI is no more a 'caged parrot', but truly performing its duty as India's top crime investigation agency." He also shared a short video of his address on Saturday at a conference of CBI officers. "To perform your duty under a government which believes in zero tolerance against corruption, you can understand the challenges for you," he said. *ENS*

India needs safe blood practices to reduce infection: Advocacy group

New Delhi: The Thalassemia Patients Advocacy Group (TPAG), in a letter to the union health minister, has urged him to issue an advisory to all the states to ensure safe blood transfusion and to consider using Nucleic Acid Testing technology (NAT) in all government hospitals to bring down the risk of infection. As NAT is available in states like Odisha, MP and J&K, the advocacy group said it should be made available in all state government hospitals. There should not be any disparity in providing safe and quality blood, it said. Addressed to Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, TPAG member secretary Anubha Taneja-Mukherjee in the letter said, safe blood for India's Thalassemics and other recipients is an urgent requirement. *ENS*

Army Medical Corps expedition flagged off to mark Raising Day

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

THE Indian Army launched a motorcycle expedition on Sunday to appreciate and motivate the doctors and paramedics who rendered a yeoman's service during the testing time of Covid pandemic. This expedition was flagged-off on the 258th Raising Day of the Army Medical Corps (AMC).

"The Indian Army celebrated the 258th Raising Day of AMC on April 3. Vice Admiral Rajat Datta, Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services and Lieutenant General Daljit Singh, Director General of Medical Services (Army) along with Directors General of Medical Services of (Navy) & (Air) laid wreaths at the National War Memorial and paid tributes to the medical personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty," said an official statement.

The Medical Corps team in New Delhi before the expedition was flagged off

"A team of 10 individuals, including officers, JCOs and other ranks from the health fraternity of the AMC will cover 12 states, including the seven states of the Northeast, and will travel approximately 10,875 km, of which around 5,500 km will be passing through jungles and mountains," sources told.

The expedition team will visit a total of 75 Units as an appreciation to the role performed during the pandemic. The expedition will culminate at Lucknow.

The team is led by Colonel Rajesh W Adhau, who was awarded Sena Medal during the Kargil conflict. In 2019 the Medical Corps Motorbike Expedition team led by him had achieved the feat of crossing eight high mountain passes.

STUDENT LEADER HELD

A student leader, expelled from the Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad, was arrested on Sunday for allegedly threatening and verbally abusing Aliah University Vice-Chancellor Mahammad Ali

28 STUDENTS TAKEN ILL AFTER MEAL AT UP'S GOVT SCHOOL

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	41	24	Mumbai	32	28
Bhopal	41	23	Panaji	31	27
Jaipur	40	22	Patna	41	23
Amritsar	34	17	Lucknow	41	24
Chennai	36	27	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	30	17
Srinagar	26	07	Chandigarh	44	22

Army trial in J&K 'fake' encounter

Captain to face court martial proceedings over killing of three labourers in Shopian

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ARMY has initiated general court martial proceedings against an army captain for killing three labourers in a staged encounter in Amshipura of Shopian in south Kashmir in July 2020.

Defence sources said the Army has initiated court martial proceedings against Captain Bhoopendra Singh in a staged encounter on July 18, 220 at Amshipura, Shopian after a Court of Inquiry found that troops had exceeded powers vested under the AFSPA.

In December 2020, the army had completed the 'summary of evidence' in the Shopian fake encounter after the Court of Inquiry found that the trio was killed in the encounter.

On July 18, 2020, three young labourers from Rajouri Abrar Ahmed, 25, Imtiyaz Ahmed, 20, and Mohammed Ibrar, 16, were killed in the staged encounter by the army.

After the alleged encounter, army claimed to have recovered arms and ammunition and incriminating material from the slain militants, who later turned out to be labourers from Rajouri.

After the families of the trio alleged that their wards were killed in a staged encounter and lodged an FIR in police station Rajouri, army and police launched separate probes. Later, army admitted that its men exceeded the powers vested under the AFSPA and contravened the dos and don'ts of the chief of army staff as approved by the Supreme Court.

Three months after the staged encounter, bodies of three deceased labourers were exhumed from a graveyard in north Kashmir and handed over to their families for proper burial after their DNA profiling established their identity.

The separate police investigation has established that army captain Bhoopendra Singh alongwith two locals had hatched the conspiracy to abduct the civilians and stage a fake encounter.

Bihar leaders fume over Paswans' eviction in Delhi

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

LEADERS across party lines in Bihar expressed their strong displeasure over eviction of bungalow of former union minister and patriarch of the scheduled caste late Ram Vilas Paswan by the central government in New Delhi last week.

After eviction of 12 Janpath bungalow, a video went viral on social media late on Saturday showing the statue of B R Ambedkar and photographs of Ram Vilas Paswan being thrown on the road. The *TNIE*, however, doesn't verify the authenticity of the viral video.

Former chief minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi came out in support of Chirag Paswan and said on Sunday, "Had religious books thrown on the road like the statue of Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the photographs of senior Paswan, communal violence would have erupted in several cities"

Manjhi said that he was deeply hurt by the manner the bungalow was evicted and in-treatment meted out to the two stalwarts of the Dalit community — both Ambedkar and senior Paswan. He demanded from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union home minister Amit Sah to take stern action against those responsible for insulting the two Dalit protagonists.

Manjhi's HAM is a part of the ruling NDA government in Bihar. His son Santosh Kumar is a minister in the Nitish Kumar cabinet.

Earlier, leader of opposition in Bihar assembly Tejashwi Prasad Yadav tweeted, "The central team that went to vacate the 12 Janpath bungalow tossed the statue of Bharat Ratna B R Ambedkar and pho tograph of Padma Bhushan awardee Ram Vilas Paswan in a derogatory manner."

He also shared the video showing the eviction undertaken at the bungalow in Delhi's posh Lutyens area, on Twitter on Saturday.

Discarded items outside the residence of LJP founder late Ram Vilas Paswan in New Delhi on Sunday, the day the Central authorities completed the eviction process | PTI

SPREADING WINGS

AAP eyes vacuum created by Cong in Jammu region

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar

BUOYED by party's victory in Assembly polls in Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of Arvind Kejriwal is now eyeing Jammu and Kashmir and strengthening its base in the region with an eye on the forthcoming Assembly polls in the Union Territory.

The AAP is focusing on the Jammu region, which is spread over 10 districts and would have 43 Assembly seats in the 90-member J&K Assembly after the delimitation exercise is completed.

The AAP is increasingly focusing on three districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban in Chenab Valley and border districts of Rajouri and Poonch in Pir Panjal region, where the influence of BJP is less as compared to five other districts of Jammu region – Jammu, Samba, Kathua, Udhampur and Reasi. According to political commentators, since the influence of Congress is on decline in Chenab Valley, Pir Panjal region and mainland Jammu, the AAP is eyeing to occupy the space created by weakening of Congress.

The AAP intends to emerge as a major challenger to the saffron party in Jammu region.

The AAP recently held an impressive road show in Doda district. It was led by AAP leader Mehraj Malik, who won Doda District Development Council (DDC) poll as an independent candidate in 2020.

Farooq Ahmad Banday, AAP's co-convener, J&K, told this newspaper that the popularity of the AAP is increasing in J&K with each passing day

"We are witnessing the daily joining of thousands of people in the Jammu region. We have got thousands of active members in every constituency. Many panchayat and DDC members have joined the party," he said.

Detained by cops: Journalists

CONTINUED FROME PAGE 1

Some of them also alleged they were detained by the Delhi Police and taken to the Mukherjee Nagar Police Station. A senior police officer said, "We have received several complaints from journalists and are lodging FIRs." One of the FIRs has been lodged under IPC sections for molestation, causing hurt and attempt at snatching against unknown persons, said officials.

Denying allegations the journalists were detained, DCP northwest Usha Rangnani tweeted: "Some of the reporters, willingly... sat in PCR Van stationed at the venue and opted to proceed to police station for security reasons. Nobody was detained."

Later in the day, the police filed an FIR against the event organiser. "Taking a suo motu cognisance, we have also booked the speakers for inflammatory speech. We have also scanned the CCTV footage and identified some of the speakers," a senior officer said.

AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann offers prayers at the Swaminarayan temple in Ahmedabad on Sunday | PTI

Kejriwal, Mann visit temple in Ahmedabad

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

DELHI Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann are on a two-day Gujarat visit with eyes on the state elections scheduled later this year. The two offered prayers at Swaminarayan temple in Ahmedabad on Sunday.

The AAP natinal convener has already began playing the Hindutva and Patidar card in Gujarat. He including Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann offered prayers at the Swaminarayan temple here on Sunday.

Aam Aadmi Party spokesperson Yogesh Jadwani said that Arvind Kejriwal had met top leaders of the party on the day and provided guidance for the forthcoming elections after the Swaminarayan mandir visit. He also met leaders of various communities and political analysts and took suggestions from them. He also assured to visit Gujarat soon.

Kejriwal's visit to the Swaminarayan temple is significant because in Gujarat, the Swaminarayan sect has a very large following among the Patel (Patidar) community members. This sect has around 1,100 saints which should be the highest in number for any sect after the Ramkrishna Mission. Patel community has traditionally been with the BJP, but a section of the community has turned against the party due to Patidar's agitation for reservation in 2015. The sect also has a large following among backward classes in the state.

Meanwhile, the Congress is also trying to wean off Patidar voters – who have been the bedrock of the BJP's support base in the state – apart from the upper castes and the Vaishya community, from the saffron party.

According to political analyst Dilip Patel, the Swaminarayan sect's relationship with politics has grown stronger over the last 25 years. The Swaminarayan sect has a very close relationship with the BJP. In 2017 PM Modi was the chief guest of Akshardham Mandir.

Curfew stays in Raj city after communal clashes

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

HIGH tension and an eerie silence prevailed in Karauli city of Rajasthan on Sunday where curfew has been imposed since communal clashes erupted on Saturday evening.

Tension arose between two communities in Ajmer's Beawar city over the murder of a youth on the eve of the Hindu new year celebrations. While the situation remains tense, politics over the clashes has intensified sharply and the government and the opposition are blaming each other for the incidents that have sparked off communal tensions.

Internet services are also suspended in the district. The police have made 15 points in the city, on which more than 600 soldiers are deployed and police personnel are also conducting flag marches in the area. With the police force stationed all around, peace prevails in Karauli.

In Karauli, curfew remains in force since communal clashes erupted on Saturday evening. People remain locked in their homes since communal tensions erupted due to stone pelting on a bike rally of Hindu extremist organisations who were celebrating the Hindu new year in a Muslim locality of Karauli. The incident left dozens of people injured and vehicles and shops were set on fire leading to a curfew. In the violence that broke out miscreants ransacked and set fire to more than 35 shops and two dozen vehicles. After this, District Collector Rajendra Singh Shekhawat imposed curfew in the city which will remain in force till April 4.

CM Ashok Gehlot has blamed the BJP for the incidents in Karauli on Saturday and Beawar on Sunday. Talking to the media in Barmer, CM Ashok Gehlot attributed the mobilization on religious grounds as the reason behind the Karauli incident. While targeting the Centre, the Yogi government and BJP in UP, Gehlot said, "their approach to governance does not get attention."

UTTARAKHAND

State axes 5K forest guards amid ongoing wildfire season

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Dehradun

THE Uttarakhand forest department has removed 5,000 forest guards in ongoing forest fire season, as part of a decision which was taken following budget constraints, officials said. The move is expected to adversely affect the fire fighting operations in the ongoing fire season.

Nitish Mani Tripathi, divisional forest officer, Dehradun, explaining the reasons behind the decision said, "The forest guards were hired using the budget under CAMPA funds (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) for financial year 2021-22 seven months ago. The budget has not been allocated for next year that is why the jobs are dissolved now."

The forest guards used to get paid ₹8,000 per month whose job entailed ground patrolling of the forests of the hill state and apprising about the ground situation to the authorities.

With so many forest guards gone in one go, the threat of forest fires, wildlife crimes lurks.

Fire season in he hill state starts on February 15 and goes on till the monsoon arrives.

A senior official on the condition of anonymity said, "These human resources are valuable asset and must be retained as they are the hours on ground. There is a threat of them turning against the very department and indulging in wildlife crimes as they know the forest and the department inside out."

A total of 107 incidents of forest fires have been reported this year destroying 139.86 hectares of forest land. In 2021, 2,813 forest fire incidents occurred destroying 3943.88 hectares of forest land while in year 2020 only 135 such incident were reported with damages to 172.69 hectares of forest land.

ICMR revises diet standards

Hyderabad: The dietary guidelines for Indians last released by the ICMR's National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) in 2011 are being revised to promote healthy diets and lifestyles, the NIN director said on Sunday. The existing 15 guidelines will undergo a thorough revision and an important addition will be made for using food label information to make healthy food choices. The guidelines are being revised in the light of the recently revised food composition data of commonly consumed foods across the country and the revised nutrient requirements for Indians. *PTI*

JHARKHAND

Abandoned coal mines now haven for fish farming

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

LOCAL residents in Jharkhand's Ramgarh have been creating opportunities for themselves by introducing fish farming in abandoned coal mines of the Central Coal Fields Limited (CCL).

People who lost their land for mining projects have come forward to push the initiative after obtaining no objection certificate from the CCL.

Officials informed that currently it is being done in four coal pits and is being replicated in other places through the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) fund.

Notably, there are several coal mines in CCL project area lying empty for the last several years after coal extraction, which remains filled of water throughout the year making it suitable for fish farming. The model was also nominated for SKOCH Award and also reached up to the final round for PM Award in best innovation category.

Ramgarh district administration is in favour of extending the project to other coal mine pits if found fit for fish farming. According to Ramghar Deputy Commissioner, there cannot be a better use of the water which has collected in the coal pits.

Locals showcase fish farmed at one of the abandoned ponds in Ramgarh | EXPRESS

"The abandoned coal mines, which are also a source of illegal mining in the region, are being utilised by promoting fish farming in the region. Looking at the success of fish farming at Ara coal pit, several other people, living in other coal pit areas got highly inspired and have expressed their interests in replicating the idea as Ramgarh primarily is a coal mine district," said Ramgarh Deputy Commissioner Madhvi Mishra.

Mishra further added that the project has created a new source of livelihood for the locals as there is no alternate source of income in coal mine areas, especially for women District Fishery Officer informed that such coal mines of CCL, which have been left abandoned for the last 10-12 years, are the most suitable for fish farming as water quality there improves over the period of time.

Maldhari community protests again stray cattle law

Maldharis (cattle-rearer) are now in the verge of launching a large-scale agitation against the law introduced by the state on the issue of stray cattle. The trumpet of agitation has been blown by the Maldhari community against the law where the cattle breeders will have to secure a license to keep livestock in urban areas. Pastoralists will be liable to obtain a license within 90 days of the new law coming into force. Congress leaders also supported the movement and said there are 50 lakh cattle-rearers in the state and a majority of them being from poor and illiterate backgrounds.

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA
Our correspondent in Gujarat
dilipsingh@newindianexpress.com

AHMEDABAD DIARY

Final HC hearing in 2002 Anand district's Ode riot case

The final hearing on the appeal challenging the Anand district sessions court's order on the 2002 Ode Malav Bhagol riot case will be held in the High Court on April 6. The Anand district sessions court had in May 2012 sentenced nine persons convicted of murder and conspiracy to life imprisonment, while one found guilty of causing hurt was sentenced to six months in jail. The convicts as well as the state government have challenged the order before the High Court. The trial court had acquitted 30 others accused in the case either for want of evidence or on the grounds of the benefit of the doubt. The Malav Bhagol killings, which occurred on March 1, 2002, were one of the nine riot-related cases that were investigated by the Supreme Court-appointed special investigation team.

MoS blame anti-social elements for rape cases

During an event held at Surat, Minister of State for Home Harsh Sanghavi said that incidents of rape are caused due to the socially distorted mentality of the accused. "When a rape comes to light, police are the first to get blamed for their negligence. But in most cases, the victims are abused by a known acquaintance. Those exposed to pop culture are more prone to committing such crimes," he said. Citing an example, he said, if a an in-law is committing the crime with his daughter-in-law, then the crime is a social evil committed by a mentally disturbed person and not a law and order issue.

MLA who made way for Jignesh may join BJP

The troubles of different kinds, shapes, and sizes do not seem to be stopping for beleaguered Congress. Congress party's former MLA from Vadgam Manibhai Vaghela recently shared his photo with PM Narendra Modi on social media. Political scientists see this as the first indication by the former Congress MLA to join BJP. Manibhai Vaghela was elected to the state assembly on the Congress ticket in 2012 and the 2017 General election, the party had asked him to vacate the seat for an independent candidate Jignesh Mevani. In the year 2021, Vaghela resigned from the Congress party, and since then, there have been rumors in the political circles that he will join the BJP.

A tanker carrying fuel arrived in Yemen's Hodeida port on Sunday, as a ceasefire entered its first full day

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • SW: Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	24	9	SNY	Los Angeles	22	13	LC
Colombo	30	25	TDS	Melbourne	20	13	LC
Dhaka	35	26	LC	Moscow	4	-4	LC
Dubai	32	21	SNY	New York	14	7	SNY
Houston	27	22	HR	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	14	8	LC	Toronto	6	3	LC
London	15	10	LR	Washington	16	7	LC

Sri Lanka police fire tear gas at varsity students during protest amid curfew

MINISTERS RESIGN EN MASSE

Colombo: Crisis-hit Sri Lanka's cabinet resigned en masse from their positions at a late-night meeting on Sunday, the education minister said. All 26 ministers aside from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his elder brother Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa submitted letters of resignation, education minister Dinesh Gunawardena told reporters.

We are protesting the government's abuse of the public security ordinance to deny the public's right to protest

Sajith Premadasa, Opposition leader

COLOMBO

SRI Lankan police fired tear gas and water cannons at hundreds of university students during a protest in the central province despite a curfew on Sunday, as demands grew for appointment of an all-party interim government to address the worst economic crisis that has plagued the country.

The government's poor handling of the economic crisis has angered the public which planned country-wide protests on Sunday.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa issued a special gazette notification late on Friday night, declaring a public emergency in Sri Lanka with immediate effect from April 1. The government also imposed a 36-hour curfew with effect from 6pm Saturday to 6am Monday. The government ordered internet service providers to restrict social media access, tightening curbs to prevent planned demonstrations calling for President's ouster over soaring living costs and a foreign exchange crisis. The social media curbs were lifted at nearly 15 hours on Sunday.

Defying curfew orders, lawmakers from Sri Lanka's principal opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya staged an anti-government protest in Colombo against President Rajapaksa's move to impose a state of emergency and other restrictions.

"We will protect democracy in SriLanka," opposition legislator Harsha de Silva said.

The Opposition lawmakers marched towards Colombo's Independence Square, chanting slogans and carrying placards that read: "Stop Suppression' and "Gota go home."

In Central Province, hundreds of students from the University of Peradeniya took to streets to protest against the present state of affairs in the country. However, police installed barricades close to the university.

University Students accompanied by their lecturers proceeded towards the Galaha Junction, and tensions boiled over when they attempted to remove the barricades set up by the police, News 1st channel reported.

Police and riot police used water cannons to disperse the crowd and thereafter fired tear gas, it said.

In Western Province, a total of 664 people were arrested for violating the curfew and trying to stage an anti-government rally. Opposition lawmakers, led by their leader Sajith Premadasa, had set off on a march towards the iconic Independence Square in Colombo, defying a weekend curfew imposed by the government on Saturday, ahead of the planned protest for Sunday.

The protest was organised by social media activists against the ongoing economic crisis and hardships heaped on people due to shortages of essentials.

Namal Rajapaksa, the sports minister and President Rajapaksa's nephew, told reporters that the social media blockade was useless as many people would use VPN to access social media sites. *PTI*

Protesters hold placards during a demonstration against the surge in prices in Colombo on Sunday | AFP

Man electrocuted during protest

Colombo: A 53-year old man, who was protesting outside the private residence of Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was electrocuted after he climbed a electricity pole, police said on Sunday.

664 agitators arrested in Western Province

664 people were arrested in Sri Lanka's Western Province on Sunday for violating a 36-hour nationwide curfew and trying to stage an anti-government rally to protest the economic crisis.

UKRAINE ACCUSES RETREATING RUSSIANS OF CIVILIAN MASSACRE

Troops find bodies with bound hands, gunshot wounds to the head and signs of torture

BUCHA

BODIES with bound hands, close-range gunshot wounds and signs of torture lay scattered in a city on the outskirts of Kyiv after Russian soldiers withdrew from the area. Ukrainian authorities on Sunday accused the departing forces of committing war crimes and leaving behind a "scene from a horror movie."

As images of the bodies — of people whom residents said were killed indiscriminately — began to emerge from Bucha, a slew of European leaders condemned the atrocities and called for tougher sanctions against Moscow.

Journalists saw the bodies of at least 21 people in various spots around Bucha, northwest of the capital. One group of nine, all in civilian clothes, were scattered around a site that residents said Russian troops used as a base.

They appeared to have been killed at close range. At least two had their hands tied behind their backs and one of those was shot in the head; another's legs were bound.

Ukrainian officials laid the blame for the killings — which they said happened in Bucha and other Kyiv suburbs — squarely at the feet of Russian troops, with the president calling them evidence of genocide. But Russia's Defense Ministry rejected the accusations as "provocation."

The discoveries followed the Russian retreat from the area around the capital, territory that has seen heavy fighting since troops invaded Ukraine from three directions on Feb. 24.

Troops who swept in from Belarus to the north spent weeks trying to clear a path to Kyiv, but their advance stalled in the face of resolute defense from Ukraine's forces.

Moscow now says it is focusing its offensive on the country's east, but it also pressed a siege on a city in the north and continued to strike cities elsewhere in a war that has already forced more than 4 million Ukrainians to flee their country and many more to leave their homes.

Russian troops rolled into Bucha in the early days of the invasion and stayed up March 30. With those forces gone, residents gave harrowing accounts Sunday, saying soldiers shot and killed civilians without any apparent reason.

"This is genocide," Zelenskyy told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

But Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the photos and videos of dead bodies "have been stage managed by the Kyiv regime for the Western media."

The statement noted that Bucha's mayor did not mention any abuses a day after Russian troops left. *AP*

Smoke rises after an attack by Russian army in Odessa on Sunday | AFP

Russian shelling pummels Odessa

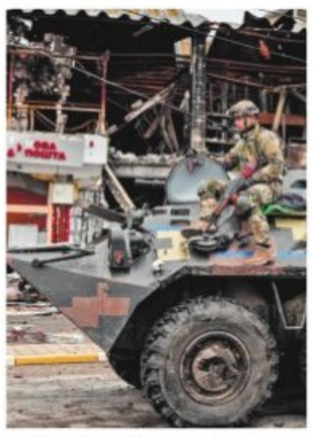
The Black Sea port city of Odessa, which has largely been spared in the conflict, was hit by Russian air trikes, apparently targeting key infrastructure, on Sunday. Plumes of thick black smoke billowed over the strategic port city, after a series of blasts shook residents awake at about 6am (0300 GMT). The strikes came as top UN humanitarian envoy Martin Griffiths was expected in Moscow then Kyiv to seek a halt to the fighting.

Too early for Zelenskyy-Putin meet

On peace talks, Russia's chief negotiator Vladimir Medinsky said it was too early for a top-level meeting between Zelenskyy and Putin on ending the conflict. He said Kyiv had become "more realistic" in its approach to issues related to the neutral and non-nuclear status of Ukraine but a draft agreement was not yet ready. And he said he did not share the "optimism" of Ukraine's negotiators on the possibility of talks between the two countries' leaders in Turkey.

This is genocide. The elimination of the whole nation and the people... We are the citizens of Ukraine. We have more than 100 nationalities. This is about the destruction and extermination of all these nationalities

Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Ukraine President



An Ukranian soldier patrols in an armoured vehicle on a street in Bucha, northwest of Kyiv | AFP

Pope prays for end to 'sacrilegious' war

VALLETTA

POPE FRANCIS prayed on Sunday for an end to the "sacrilegious" war in Ukraine and for the world to show kindness and compassion to refugees as he concluded a two-day visit to Malta that was dominated by his concern for the devastation unleashed by Russia's invasion.

Though short, the trip has been particularly taxing for the 85-year-old pontiff, who is suffering from painful strained right knee ligaments. He struggled repeatedly on Sunday to get out of his chair and his limping gait from sciatica was so pronounced that he frequently had to grab onto the arm of an aide.

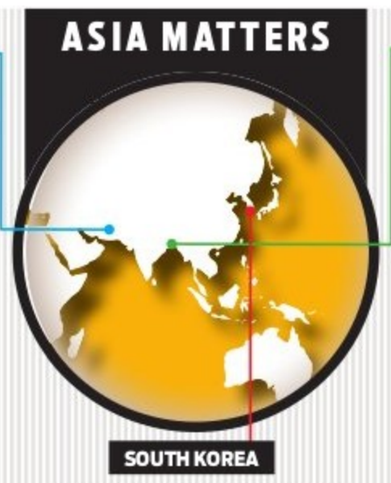
Francis opened his second and final day in Malta by visiting the Grotto of St. Paul in Rabat, where the Apostle Paul stayed after being shipwrecked off Malta en route to Rome in AD 60.

According to the biblical account of the period, the Maltese people showed Paul unusual kindness, and he responded by preaching and healing, bringing Christianity to the islands.

Francis has used his visit to Malta to drive home his call for Europe to show the same welcome to migrants and refugees that the Maltese showed St. Paul.

He has expanded that message to express his gratitude for the welcome Europe has shown Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian war and his hope that same generosity could be extended to others. *AP*

ASIA MATTERS



AFGHANISTAN

Blast in Kabul kills one, wounds dozens: Officials

Kabul: An explosion in the centre of the Afghan capital of Kabul on Sunday killed one person and wounded at least 59 others, hospital officials said. In a tweet, Kabul's Emergency Hospital said one body was received at the hospital and 59 people were treated, with 30 of the wounded being admitted for further treatment. It did not specify the injuries. A spokesman for the Taliban's Kabul police, Khalid Zadran, said the explosion was caused by a hand grenade thrown by a would-be thief who wanted to rob the money changers in the area. He said 10 people were injured. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy in the number of wounded. A money changer said the explosion happened inside a market. The market was closed soon. *AP*

SOUTH KOREA

Incoming prez nominates his prime minister

Seoul: South Korean President-elect Yoon Suk Yeol on Sunday announced his intent to name a seasoned former prime minister and economic expert to serve as the country's No 2 official under his incoming government. Yoon's pick of Han Duck-soo for PM is the first major nomination in his government, which is set to be inaugurated on May 10. South Korea's executive power is concentrated with the president, but the PM leads the country if the president becomes incapacitated. *AP*

BANGLADESH

Harassed for wearing bindi, says woman prof

Dhaka: A woman professor of a private college in Bangladesh has alleged that she was harassed and threatened to kill by a "man in police uniform" for wearing a bindi, media report said on Sunday. Lota Sumaddaer, a theatre and media studies lecturer at Tejgaon College here, said she has been feeling unsafe since the incident took place on Saturday near her college, the Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. In her complaint to the police, she said that a "police officer" on a parked motorcycle harassed her for wearing a bindi. The professor said that she was "threatened" when she protested his "verbal abuse". Sumaddaer said the "police officer" also tried to run her over with his bike when she protested. She then saved herself by quickly moving aside. *PTI*

'Absolutely nothing to do' with current situation: Pak Army

ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S powerful army said on Sunday that it has "absolutely nothing" to do with the prevailing political situation in the country. Military spokesman Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar made the remarks while speaking to a private TV channel in the wake of rejection of a no-confidence motion and subsequent dissolution of the National Assembly (NA) by President Arif Alvi on advice of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

"The army has absolutely nothing to do with what happened in the NA today," Iftikhar said.

The powerful army, which has ruled the coup-prone country for more than half of its 73-plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

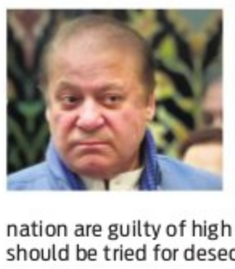
Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa has at least twice met Prime Minister Khan last week.

According to Prime Minister Khan, the top army leadership met him last week and offered three options to resolve the political impasse, which included his resignation, facing no-confidence or calling early elections.

Meanwhile, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif termed Imran Khan a traitor to the Constitution and democracy. *PTI*

PM guilty of high treason: Nawaz Sharif

London: Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif on Sunday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan and all others involved in the "conspiracy" against the nation are guilty of high treason and should be tried for desecrating the Constitution. "Today, a man obsessed with power trampled the Constitution," Sharif, who is currently based in London, wrote on his official Twitter handle. *PTI*



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EXPRESS READ

Three feared dead in Acapulco shooting

Mexico City: At least three people were killed in a shooting and subsequent confrontation with police Saturday at a beachside restaurant in Mexico's Pacific coast resort of Acapulco. The prosecutor's office in Guerrero state, where Acapulco is located, said two gunmen approached and killed two men at a beachside restaurant. *AP*

TRIGGER HAPPY

Taliban announce ban on poppy production

KABUL

AFGHANISTAN'S ruling Taliban announced a ban on Sunday on poppy production, even as farmers across the country began harvesting the bright red flower that produces the opium used to make heroin.

The order warns farmers that their crops will be burned and they can be jailed if they proceed with the harvest.

The ban is reminiscent of the Taliban's previous rule in the late 1990s when the religion-driven movement outlawed poppy production.

At that time, the ban was staggered and implemented countrywide within two years.

The UN verified that production had been eradicated in most of the country.

However, after their ouster in 2001 farmers in many parts of the country reportedly plowed over their wheat fields ' which had been almost impossible to bring to market because of the lack of roads and infrastructure ' and returned to poppy production.

During the last years of the Taliban rule, wheat was rotting in fields because the farmers were unable to bring it to market to be sold and ground into flour.

In desperately poor Afghanistan the ban on poppy production will further impoverish its poorest citizens.

According to a UN report in 2021, income from opiates in Afghanistan was a whopping $1.8 to $2.7 billion, more than 7 per cent of the country's GDP. *AP*

RAJAS KELKAR

WHAT ARE MULTI-BAGGER STOCKS

INVESTING is a lot like cricket. In T20 cricket, when you select a team, you choose players based on availability, playing conditions and skills. In a tournament like the Indian Premier League (IPL), every team gets a finite purse to choose the right players. That ensures that you do not overspend on high profile players only. You have to pick up the right talent to make a balanced team within all these limitations. So, you take a few experienced players and a lot of young players who could produce the desired results for your team. Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah of Mumbai Indians is an example. Before getting picked for the Mumbai Indians team, he barely played any domestic cricket. He not only helped Mumbai Indians to win five IPL titles and went on to play for India in limited-overs cricket. He is also now the lead bowler in Test cricket for his country.

Stock market investing is a lot like that. You have to consider fundamental and external factors similar to those cricket selectors consider when creating a balanced team. Then, based on the money you have, you select a few stocks that could turn into multi-baggers in the future.

50%

of the wealth-creating stocks (multi-baggers) belonged to 10 sectors out of the 74 tracked by Edelweiss in the past decade

ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY

> **You want to buy tomorrow's heroes today. After all, today's share prices function for tomorrow's profits. You need to be interested in finance and have no fear of numbers for that purpose**
>
> Rajas Kelkar

The right sector

Stock market analysts crunch all the data to develop profit estimates of companies after each quarter. They align their expectations and recommendations based on their conversations with company management. Earlier, there was difficulty getting information on corporate results and management discussions after quarterly results announcements. However, today, all the 'concall' transcripts and presentations are published by companies on their website. As an investor looking to choose the right sector, you need to go through these conversations and understand a few basics. Recently, mint, a business newspaper, reported that in the first quarter of 2022, stock markets had delivered 90 multi-baggers. These were low-priced stocks that rose multiple times their value. Many of them were also categorised as penny stocks. An analysis by Edelweiss, a securities firm, says that 50% of the wealth-creating stocks (multi-baggers) belonged to 10 sectors out of the 74 tracked by them in the past decade. The winners were those in the software, chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors. "Picking the right sector is getting the 'wind beneath the wings for many investors," said the Edelweiss analysis. Before picking the stocks, you need to figure out a few sectors you can grow sustainably over next few years.

With global supply chain disruptions and the government's emphasis on manufacturing in India through production-linked incentives, many new sectors have opened up. Even if international trade resumes, major importing nations are unlikely to depend on a single manufacturer like China for everything. There would be a plan B for most multinational corporations. India's manufacturing sector has an opportunity to tap into the potential demand like never before. These could be sectors like pharmaceuticals, speciality chemicals and consumer electronics. Even the automobile sector is witnessing traction in the export market, with the demand for cars and auto components growing steadily.

The IT services sector is another area that could throw up winners. With the need for digital transformation rising, India's IT services skills will be tested again. Large MNCs in the US and Europe would undoubtedly spend more and look to Indian companies to provide reliable services. Similarly, cloud computing is another area of growth. As a first step, you may want to watch out for the results of these companies. They discuss the outlook for the financial year ahead. Then, follow their performance in the stock market.

You want to buy tomorrow's heroes today. After all, today's share prices function for tomorrow's profits. You need to be interested in finance and have no fear of numbers for that purpose. To identify a potential winner, you need to be both. It is not for the faint-hearted. You cannot just say that you will put money, and the rest should take care of itself. It requires an effort to learn about factors that make a multi-bagger stock. It may take time but you could soon stumble upon your potential winner.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE BANK-FINTECH ECOSYSTEM

- SBI has picked up stake in financial tech platform IBBIC
- Some of the partnerships include DBS Bank-CredAble, Federal Bank-CredAvenue, ICICI Bank-Niyo and SBM Bank India- Drip Capital
- According to latest data, India has over **2,100** fintechs and of which over **67%** have been set up in the last 5 years
- Of over **60,000** start-ups recognised by DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), 1,860 start-ups belong to the fintech sector
- The Neo-banking segment is expected to show a revenue growth of **39.6%** in 2023, according to Statista

Banks, fintechs team up to tap digital opportunities

While banks have built trust, fintech firms bring in new technology

UMA KANNAN @Bengaluru

YOUR banks are getting 'smarter' with launch of more digital and fintech solutions.

Faced with competition from new-age fintech firms, and also Covid-19 pandemic forcing them to evolve digitally, both public and private sector are going big on digitally-powered services. Over the past two years, banks as well as fintech firms have been witnessing enormous growth in digital payments, and they are partnering to expand as well as tap new customers.

While banks have built trust among customers, fintech firms bring in new technology so as to reach more users and also innovate new products, features to make any transaction easier and convenient. Apart from tie-ups, a few banks have their own financial subsidiaries that offer various financial solutions to customers.

Recently, BOB Financial Solutions Limited, which is wholly-owned by Bank of Baroda, along with CreditAI Fintech launched a co-branded credit card exclusively for farmers. UCO Bank strengthened its fintech partnership with Fisdom through addition of demat and trading account services so as to deliver a digital wealth management experience to its customers.

Akhil Handa, Chief Digital Officer, Bank of Baroda, told TNIE that the bank continues to invest in not only enhancing its IT backbone but also in creating cutting-edge digital platforms and partnering with leading technology players and fintech start-ups to provide the next generation of products and experience to customers.

The bank has over 40 partnerships with diverse fintech start-ups working across lending, wealth, payments and Blockchain, among others. Through three models - Fintegration, Distribution and Co-creation, the bank collaborates with various fintechs.

Also, in case of chatbots, information augmentation, analytics and other services, banks seek tie-ups with fintech start-ups. "The new tech era is undoubtedly bringing a revolution in how banking works. Although fintech doesn't have deep pockets as the financial banks, they have better data, connectivity, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and integration of the latest software, making financial inclusion much easier," says Rachit Chawla, CEO and Founder, Finway FSC.

People no longer have to visit banks for every task, as they get their work done from their smartphones. The AI data of smartphone users make connectivity much more accessible. The partnership with banks would create a synergy, as the capital bandwidth meets the right audience, he adds.

Partnership model boost

The collaboration between banks and fintech companies is also to increase co-lending, extend credit to small businesses and expand merchants acquiring business, among others. Many mid-size banks have partnered with multiple fintechs.

Federal Bank recently partnered with CredAvenue for portfolio management of its securitisation book. Kotak Mahindra Bank joined hands with Pine Labs, which is a unicorn, to expand its PoS (point-of-sale) services.

HDFC Bank works with Paytm to offer co-branded credit cards to millennials, business owners and others. Axis Bank too announced its partnership with BharatPe to expand its merchant acquiring business.

Embedded Finance start-up Falcon has partnered with Visa, National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), global processors, ICICI Bank, YES Bank, IndusInd Bank and Punjab National Bank, among others. Bank of Baroda has also tied up with over 18 fintech players with over 100 digital integrations, for the purpose of digital analysis of Bank statement, GST and ITR, e-signing, EPFO, Vahaan, Mobile metadata and SMS scrapping, among others. Apart from other banks, SBI also picked up stakes in financial technology platform IBBIC. The equity ownership of IBBIC is aimed at providing distribution ledger technology (DLT) solutions for the financial services sector.

> **Although fintech doesn't have deep pockets as the financial banks, they have better data, connectivity, Artificial Intelligence (AI)...**
>
> RACHIT CHAWLA, CEO & Founder, Finway FS

Also, UPI transactions have been up significantly since the beginning of the pandemic. Fintech platform Razorpay, which gives access to all payment modes, has tied-up with many companies.

Amitabh Tewary, Chief Innovation Officer, Razorpay, says beyond just cards, UPI already has been making great strides in the country, and this allows people to just scan a QR code and make a payment. Situations that arose out of the pandemic gave a lot of push to contactless payments and this will keep growing.

The future of payments

Bank of Baroda has partnered with NPCI to offer a wearable payment solution to its customers by leveraging the existing NFC (near field communication)-based technology. "Wearable technology is witnessing a tremendous interest and absorption globally, as people are increasingly adopting more convenient and cashless digital transactions. This is an innovative solution, intended to perfectly deliver preventive health actions as well as easier payment transactions," Akhil Handa says.

He adds that it is anticipated that 10% of the small-ticket payments will be made via wearable devices in the next two years. Apart from these, Neo banking is said to be the next thing in the fintech space. "Neo banking would allow users to resolve their banking queries from the comfort of their homes. It eradicates the traditional banking system, whether getting a loan, doing a simple transition, or resolving any other issues through your smartphones," says Rachit Chawla.

Instead of competing with fintech firms, it has become necessary for banks to partner with various emerging fintech start-ups for not just introducing new features in the fintech space but also to retain and reach more customers who prefer convenience for all transactions- be it insurance, loans or various payments.

MONEY-WISE

Turning the Spotlight on some Large and Midcap Funds

ASHOK KUMAR

IN my last column, we had commenced with a discussion on the category of Large and Mid-Cap Funds and how it can be used to anchor the equity mutual fund exposure of those in the wealth consolidation life-cycle stage. Let us now proceed to turn the spotlight on some of the funds in this space, namely Axis Growth Opportunities Fund, Canara Robeco Emerging Equities Fund, DSP Equity Opportunities Fund, Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund and Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip Fund.

Axis Growth Opportunities Fund is an Equity Large and Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹5,768 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 43% in Large Cap, 44% in Mid Cap and 13% in Small Cap and others. Its top equity holdings are in the Finance, Software and Retailing sectors. The performances of this fund over a 1-year and 3-year time period are 29.94% and 24.78% respectively.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

Canara Robeco Emerging Equities Fund is an Equity Large and Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹12,279 Crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 59% in Large Cap, 38% in Mid Cap and 3% in Small Cap. Its top equity holdings are in the Finance, Automobile and Technology sectors. The performances of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period are 22.25%, 18.74% and 15.27% respectively.

DSP Equity Opportunities Fund is an Equity Large and Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹6,395 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 55% in Large Cap, 36% in Mid Cap and 9% in Small Cap and others. Its top equity holdings are in the Banks, Software and Pharmaceutical sectors. The performances of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period are 15.71%, 15.11% and 12.37% respectively.

Kotak Equity Opportunities Fund is an Equity Large and Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹8,802 crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 58% in Large Cap, 35% in Mid Cap and 7% in Small Cap and others. Its top equity holdings are in the Financial, Industrial Manufacturing and Technology sectors. The performances of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period are 19.74%, 17.38% and 14% respectively.

Mirae Asset Emerging Bluechip Fund is an Equity Large and Mid Cap fund with an AUM of ₹21,084 Crore. The current Asset allocation mix is nearly 58% in Large Cap, 35% in Mid Cap and 7% in Small Cap. Its top equity holdings are in the Financial, Technology and Healthcare sectors. The performances of this fund over a 1-year, 3-year and 5-year time period are 20.68%, 21.20% and 17.62% respectively.

While the returns from this category may or may not be as good in, one must keep in mind that since equity is a non-linear return asset, it is always better to give it time to smoothen out the inevitable downswings.

EXPRESS READ

India exports rise to record high of $418 bn

New Delhi: India's merchandise exports spurted to a record high of $418 billion in the 2021-22 fiscal on higher shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, gem and jewellery and chemicals, according to official data released on Sunday. Outbound shipments touched an all-time monthly high of $40.38 billion in March 2022, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters here.

RBI likely to maintain status quo on rates

New Delhi: Reserve Bank is likely to maintain status quo on interest rates in its forthcoming monetary policy review but may change the stance in view of retail inflation piercing its upper tolerance limit, global uncertainties created by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, and the urgency to boost growth, feel experts. The RBI Governor will be holding its first meeting of the 2022-23 fiscal from April 6 to 8.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹300.05

Target Price ₹350

ABFRL

ABFRL's strong execution capability is reflected in its ability to scale up a series of strong brands. The company plans to build a portfolio of digital-first fashion and lifestyle brands by setting up a separate subsidiary. We factor in a revenue/EBITDA CAGR of 24%/44% over FY22-24E. The recovery of losses in Ethnic Wear and other businesses, is a welcome positive. We maintain Buy.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

Bulls on a roll amid simmering tensions in Ukraine, Q4 results onset

RAM SAHGAL @ Mumbai

BULLS could continue their aggression, which has seen key indices like the Nifty and the Bank Nifty rise 8.75% and 5.5% each from their closing lows on February 24 when the Ukraine war began.

Even the broader market, constituted by the Nifty Midcap 100 index, has risen 12.3% from its February 24 level, showing broad based participation.

The Nifty, which closed at 17670.45, on March 31, looks set to test the next hurdle of 17800 while Bank Nifty gears up to take on the 37500 resistance, having closed above its 200-day moving average of 36728 Friday to close at 37148.5.

"These two scenarios could pan out on Monday itself, unless matters in Ukraine get out of hand," said Rajesh Palviya, technical head, Axis Securities who cites Brent oil's retreat from a multi-year high of $139 on March 7 through $104 on March 31 as a big relief for India.

The biggest proof of the bulls getting back in control is the 42% plunge in fear gauge India Vix from 31.98 on February 24 through 18.43 on March 31. A reading above 20 signals nervousness while optimism is signalled by a reading below 20.

Some market watchers like Rohit Srivastava, founder , IndiaCharts, expect the present rally to extend to Nifty testing its record high of 18604.45 hit on October 19 last year.

However, the more conservative analysts like SK Joshi, director Khambatta Securities, cite the upcoming RBI policy and quarterly results season, starting with IT major TCS as determining the trend.

"Let's not forget that companies could take a hit on their margins, given the high level of inflation in the March quarter, exacerbated by the war," Joshi added.

Risks also remain in the form of a more severe strain of Covid surfacing, though for now, things seem to be under control, pointed out Joshi. FII flows will also be in focus as these constituents sold shares worth $18.5 billion in FY22, the most in any fiscal year since FY1999.

Higher rollovers of futures positions on Nifty at 82.12% in the March expiry compared to the three-month average of 76.92% and of 91.46% for Bank Nifty compared to the three month average of 81.76% indicate a positive start to the April Series of derivatives.

FRESH HIKE

Petrol above ₹100 in major cities after new hike

PETROL prices on Sunday were above ₹100 a litre-mark in all major cities across the country after its rates and that of diesel were hiked by 80 paise a litre each - the 11th increase in less than two weeks that took the total to a record ₹8 per litre.

Petrol in Delhi will now cost ₹103.41 per litre as against ₹102.61 previously while diesel rates have gone up from ₹93.87 per litre to ₹94.67, according to a price notification of state fuel retailers.

Rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state, depending upon the incidence of local taxation.

This is the eleventh increase in prices of fuel since the ending of a four-and-half-month long hiatus in rate revision on March 22.

In all, petrol prices have gone up by ₹8.00 per litre.

Petrol prices are above ₹100 a litre mark in all major cities from Srinagar to Kochi.

Diesel is above that mark in Thiruvananthapuram (₹101.83 a litre), Hyderabad (₹103.3), Mumbai (₹102.62), Bhubaneswar (₹100.1), Raipur (₹100.74) and several cities of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Telengana and Andhra Pradesh.

Diesel rates in Chennai and Bhopal are above ₹99 per litre.

Diesel is the costliest in Chittor in Andhra Pradesh (₹105.52 a litre), while petrol at ₹120.65 a litre is the costliest at the border town of Sri Ganganagar in Rajasthan. Crisil Research said a ₹9-12 per litre increase in retail price will be required for a full pass-through of an average $100 per barrel crude oil and ₹15-20 a litre hike if the average crude oil price rises to $110-120.

—PTI

Hockey Jr WC: India stun Germany to seal Q/F berth

The Indian women's hockey team stunned Germany 2-1 to register their second consecutive win in pool stages and assure a place in the quarterfinals of the FIH Junior World Cup. India, who thrashed Wales 5-1 in their opening Pool D match on Saturday, scored through two penalty corner conversions by **Lalremsiami** (2nd minute) and Mumtaz Khan (25th) to emerge winners.

MEG-NIFICENT AUSSIES

Alyssa's 170 helps Lanning & Co overcome England, clinch World Cup

GOMESH S @ Chennai

Australian players rejoice after winning the 2022 ICC Women's ODI World Cup at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Sunday | AFP

RIDICULOUS. If there's a word to describe Meg Lanning's Australia from the start of the ODI Championship cycle in 2017 up until the semifinal of the 2022 ODI World Cup, that is. 39 wins and two defeats in five years: that's how good they were. And Sunday was expected to be no different against England. If anything, they took it up a notch, with one of the most ridiculously good batting performances in a World Cup final ever.

Australia's total of 356/7, the highest total in a Women's World Cup final, was largely because of one batter — Alyssa Healy, who smashed 170 runs, the second-highest individual score in a World Cup knockout game. It was her rise as a dominant opening batter that marked the start of the Australian dynasty that was established on the ruins of that 2017 World Cup exit.

Healy wants to use the word 'reinvent' to define the turn of events, not just for her, but the team as a whole. "We came together as a squad and said, this is how we want to play our cricket from now on. And this is — we're going to be the best team in the world and for all 15 people in our squad and I think the girls outside of the squad that have come in and contributed to be able to buy into that has been unbelievable," she said after the match.

ICC WOMEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP NEW ZEALAND 2022

Brief scores: Australia 356/7 in 50 ovs (Healy 170; Haynes 68; Shrubsole 3/46) beat England 285 all out in 43.4 ovs (Sciver 148, King 3/64) by 71 runs.

She wasn't exaggerating. Up until then, Healy was hovering in the middle-order, averaging 15.96 from 52 matches. With the license to play her natural attacking game at the top, she is the leading run-scorer for Australia in the format, averaging 52.29 while striking at 102.29 in the 42 matches since.

And it wasn't just her. As Healy mentioned a large pool of young players came through the system that is in place, taking to international cricket like fish to water. Case in point: fast bowler Darcie Brown and legspinner Alana King. While Brown made her debut last year, King broke onto the scene in January 2022, and had a great debut World Cup, including a three-fer in the final. But is it just about creating the system? Definitely not. Small things like domestic contracts, reducing the wage gap, grassroots pathways, providing the male and female cricketers with similar infrastructure matter. In 2017, Cricket Australia provided the female athletes an average pay raise of 125%. Three years later, for the home T20 World Cup, the cricketing body took it upon itself to ensure that the prize money for the men and women's events were the same by chipping in an extra $600,000. Where Australia are right now in world cricket and the 'winning mentality' with which they take the field every time didn't come into being overnight. It's the result of years of investment, exposure and consistency in the selection process.

Coming back to the final, Natalie Sciver might have played out of her skin to score an unbeaten 148, making the game look like a close contest. But it never really was. Not for one minute did Australia look like a team that could be beaten in this World Cup. While the world celebrated when India ended their 26-match winning streak in September, they have since begun a new streak, notching up 12 wins in a row. Which is why, when the comparisons arise between Lanning's side and Ricky Ponting's Australia of the 2000s, it is more than fair to say that this women's side is equal to, if not better.

What's scary is that the gulf between Australia and the rest could only widen from here. Perhaps, this is a wake up call for other cricketing body's to take a good look at what Australia have done behind the scenes to become invincible. They have plenty of catching up to do.

EXPRESS READ

Shuttler Mithun enters final at Orleans Masters

ORLEANS: India's Mithun Manjunath made it to his maiden Super 100 final with a straight-game win over Indonesia's Christian Adinata at the Orleans Masters badminton tournament here. Manjunath prevailed 21-18, 21-14 over Adinata.

Patidar joins RCB as Sisodia's replacement

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) have signed Rajat Patidar as a replacement for the injured Luvnith Sisodia for the remainder of the IPL season. The right-hander is not new to the franchise, having played four times last season.

Basketball nationals: K'taka off to happy start

BENGALURU: Karnataka men got off to a solid start with a 117-76 win over Services in the senior national basketball meet in Chennai. Anil Kumar BK, Aravind A, Priyanshu Tomar were the star performers in the game with 28, 25 and 21 points, respectively.

Chennai lose three on the trot

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

BY the time the powerplay ended, the match was as good as over for Chennai Super Kings. Punjab Kings' total of 180 didn't look all that daunting at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai. The smile on Chennai captain Ravindra Jadeja's face after winning the toss and choosing to bowl first was revealing. That teams have been preferring to chase keeping the dew factor in mind was not surprising, but for Chennai, it was all the more important.

Having lost two successive matches, Chennai desperately needed this win. Lose here to Punjab and the road ahead will not get any easy, particularly in a format where you play four opponents only once. And despite their bowlers doing a good job after Liam Livingstone (60 off 32b) threatened to take Punjab to a total beyond Chennai's reach, the defending champions' batting unit lost the plot at the top. Ruturaj Gaikwad, Robin Uthappa, Moeen Ali and Jadeja were back in the hut inside the powerplay, leaving Chennai reeling at 27/4. And from there on, Chennai headed only one way, towards, their third successive defeat in the campaign, a feat they had never experienced in their history.

It was a total contrast to how Punjab had started their innings with the bat. Despite losing Mayank Agarwal and Bhanuka Rajapaksa within the second over, they still managed to get 72 runs in the powerplay without the loss of any further wickets. That in Livingstone, they had a free-wheeling batter, who was always going to attack at all points only made it difficult for Chennai. 72/2 became 109/3 by the end of 10 overs. At that stage, 200 looked very much within Punjab's reach.

The flipside of Chennai missing Deepak Chahar means it has allowed them to strengthen their seam-bowling depth with their overseas recruits. That Dwayne Bravo, Dwaine Pretorius and Chris Jordan can be counted to bowl in the latter half of the innings and also contribute with the bat is a luxury that only a few teams can enjoy. On a day where Chennai conceded 180, the three collectively gave away only 85 runs in 11 overs and shared five wickets between them.

Against teams that have enough firepower in the batting, but are thin on depth, striking early wickets is the ideal scenario. With Chahar missing, Chennai have been unable to get those early breakthroughs. They have picked up only three wickets in the powerplay overs in the three matches they have played and it is beginning to reflect on the overall outcome.

The story is ditto with the bat. Against Kolkata Knight Riders, they lost two wickets in the powerplay and followed it by one against Lucknow. On Sunday, they lost four wickets from which they never recovered. **Brief scores:** PBKS 180/8 in 20 ovs (Livingstone 60;) **bt** CSK 126/7 in 18 ovs (Dube 57; R Chahar 3/25).

A budding rivalry that could propel long jump

MARTIN JOSEPH @ Kochi

THERE is something exciting brewing in the long jump events. A fledgling rivalry, the kind that could push the discipline to new frontiers. It all started when Jeswin Aldrin said that he was looking to break M Sreeshankar's national record after a stellar show at the Indian Grand Prix-1 last month where he crossed the 8-metre barrier thrice — with his best being 8.20m.

The record at that time belonged to Sreeshankar after he had produced a jump of 8.26m at the Federation Cup in Patiala last year which had helped him qualify for the Tokyo Olympics. In recent years, Sreeshankar, 23, has been the poster boy in the long jump discipline. To challenge the country's top dog required some confidence, but Jeswin, a 20-year-old from Tamil Nadu, is starting to deliver in spades. If Sreeshankar and Jeswin started the season in fine form, Muhammed Anees Yahiya was another jumper who had breached the 8-metre mark this season. And the Federation Cup was the first time this season that these three were going to face-off in what was one of the biggest draws of the meet. If Sunday's long jump final is anything to go by, the likes of Jeswin and Sreeshankar could push each other to new heights.

While Sreeshankar ended up re-writing his own national record with an 8.36m effort, all of Jeswin's jumps barring a fault on his fifth, saw him cross the eight-metre mark with the best being 8.37m. Since the wind reading for his personal best jump was +4.1m/s, it wasn't ratified for the national record but such was his consistency that he pushed Sreeshankar all the way. "I can only perform when I'm pushed by others and it was not about feeling the pressure, but I showed what I can do on my day. I just want to give my best every time I compete. Both Jeswin and Anees pushed me and I guess that bodes well for the sport," said Sreeshankar. Sreeshankar's record-breaking jump also helped him qualify for the World Championships alongside Jeswin whose 8.26m jump with his fourth attempt helped him make the cut. With Sreeshankar still only 23 and Jeswin at 20, these two could forge a rivalry that could bring the best out of each other, especially in such a big year with the World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games set to be held.

Central Coalfields Limited
"A Miniratna Company"
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in**/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, **www.centralcoalfields.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in** in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-B

No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-14(B)/21-22 Dt:31.03.2022

"Extension of 1st floor admin building @ Keepakkam" (T/C-21-067, Est. cost ₹ 21.74 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 18.04.2022**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: SE(E)/AEE(C)/Tr.C /DVG/21-22/CYS-173 Date: 29.03.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bid against this enquiry No. SEE/AEE(C)/Trans/W&M/DVG/21-22/CYS-173 Dated : 29.03.2022 for the works coming in the Transmission (W & M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. The detailed notification regarding the works called through E-Procurement mode can be obtained from the E-Procurement Portal website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in after 04.04.2022,12.00 Hrs onwards.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Hadadi Road, Opp. Stadium, Davanagere-577004 Ph.: 08192-250774

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/21-22/F-50/10856-63 Date: 31.03.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites tenders for the following work.

Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/BGM/21-22/DRIVER-03/Call-2 for "Providing 03 No's of Vehicle drivers to the Tr.(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi on contract basis for period of one year. The details regarding participating in the tender can be obtained by website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"e-Procurement-KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **"https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in/"** on or after **04.04.2022** at **4:00 PM.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.) Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi

Mail ID: - sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No CCENC (R&B) /23/ 2021-22
B-04 No.1025 Dtd. 29.03.2022

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for the construction of Building works as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works: **01 (One) (Foot Ball Field)**
3. Tender Cost: **Rs. 10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor: **"B" Class and "A" Class**
5. Date & Time of available in web site & receipt of Bids **From 06.04.2022 to 17.00 Hours of 20.04.2022.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid **21.04.2022 at 11.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in **ONLINE** bidding only. Further details can be seen from the **website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
8. Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the **website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur OIPR-34035/11/0001/2223

Petronet LNG Limited

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
FOR SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR ARC FOR FIRE FIGHTING SERVICES (2 YEARS) at Petronet LNG Ltd, Kochi

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites bids from experienced and financially sound contractors for Annual Rate Contract for Fire Fighting services (2Years) AT PETRONET LNG LTD, KOCHI (Kerala).

Interested parties are requested to visit our website **www.petronetlng.in** for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of tender document.

Note: PLL reserves the right not to issue the tender document and/or accept or reject any or all the bids at any stage of the process and/or modify the process without assigning any reasons on its sole discretion.

No separate notification w.r.t. this tender shall be issued in press. Interested parties to regularly visit aforesaid PLL website for any updates.

Chief Manager (C&P)
PETRONET LNG LIMITED
Survey No. - 347 (PSEZ), Puthuvypu P.O, Kochi - 682508, Kerala, India.
Tel.: No.- 0484-2757701/2
Email : sureshp@petronetlng.in, cnp_kochi@petronetlng.in

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISES)
CIN No. U27310WB1920GOI003601
Web:www.bridgeroof.co.in, Email:bridge@bridgeroof.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI No. B&R / BD / DESIGN / EOI / 2022-23 / 02 Date: 01/04/2022

Bridge and Roof Co.(India) Ltd. Invites Expression of Interest from eligible Engineering Firms/Consultants And Design Architect Firm For Engineering Activities Of Various Sector Such as Infrastructure, Industrial, Railway, Airport, Water Resources, Power Etc. for existing/upcoming projects across pan India and willing to associate with B&R for upcoming Projects across pan-India.

Last Date & Time for EoI Submission	25.04.2022 at 14:00 Hrs
Opening Date and Time for EoI	26.04.2022 at 15:00 Hrs

For further details / information regarding EoI please visit https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app or https://www.bridgeroof.co.in/tenders

Interested Bidder(s) for submission of EoI will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Addendum / Corrigendum if any shall be hosted in Company's website https://www.bridgeroof.co.in/tenders and CPP portal: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app only.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Our client intend to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner **1. MRS. AMRUDAM**, W/o. Late. V. Kannan, residing at No.4/3, Sathyamurthy Road, Ramaswamy Palya, Maruthi Seva Nagar Road, Bengaluru-560033, **2. MRS. ROOPAVATHI, 3. MRS. SOORI, 4. MRS. PARVATHI, 5. MRS. LAKSHMI**, are daughters of Mrs.Amrudam & Late.V. Kannan,

If anybody has Objection for the sale of Schedule Property, may write to the undersigned within **14 (fourteen) days** from the date of this Publication with documentary proof. Non-receipt of objection/s our client presume that there is/are no objection/s from any person/s and proceed with the sale transaction. Objections if any received thereafter, is not binding upon our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Vacant Site No.21, BBMP Katha No.44/1, situated at Sathyamurthy Road, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru - 560033 (previously Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), measuring East to West 40 Feet., and North to South 30 Feet, in total measuring 1200 Sq.Ft., entire property bounded on the:

East by : Road; **West by** : Site No.30; **North by** : Private Property;
South by : Site No.22, now BBMP No.64, PID No.87-56-64.

MUNI GOVINDA RAJU ASSOCIATES, Advocates
No.311-A (6/78), III Floor, Mittal Tower,
M.G. Road, BENGALURU-560 001.
Date: 04-04-2022 Phone Nos:080-25594421/25596132

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
No.6 & 7, JALABHAVAN, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560 029
Ph: 080-41106532 Email: caokwb@gmail.com

No. KWB/CAO/AS-2/AA-3/595/2021-22 Dated: 31-03-2022

SHORT TERM NOTIFICATION

The Board desires to borrow Rs. 200.00 Crores loan under IEBR Category for implementation of Water Supply and Underground Drainage Projects with a Government Guarantee for the financial year 2021-22. The interested Public Sector Banks / Regional Rural Banks / HUDCO / Financial Institutions are requested to quote their lowest offer. The terms are as follows:

1) The Payment duration of loan will be 10 years including 2 years of moratorium period. **2)** Interest will be paid monthly. **3)** Principal repayment will be quarterly **4)** The one year MCLR rate / External benchmark linked rate. **5)** The exit load (pre-closure) conditions and processing fee if any should clearly be mentioned. **6)** Validity of the offer should clearly be indicated in the terms. **7)** Except Government Guarantee, no other security will be given.

The sealed quotations superscribed as **Quotation for term loan of Rs. 200.00 Crores** and the same should be dropped in the box provided at the chief Account Officer section on or before **18-04-2022 before 4:00 PM.** The quotations will be opened on **19-04-2022 at 05:00 PM.** For any clarification, please free to contact land line **080-41106532 / mobile No: 9480813105.**

Sd/- Chief Account officer
KUWS&D Board, Bangalore

DIPR/DDU/4001/2021-22/Deshpande Publicity

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MADURAI DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE NO: U-TRD-OT-21-22-IV dated 31.03.2022

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, Southern Railway, Madurai – 625016 invites E-Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned works.

Sl. No	Tender No & Name of the Work	Approx Tender Value (₹)	Earnest Money Value (₹)	Cost of Tender Form (₹)	Completion Period
1	**U-TRD-OT-21-22-IV-1:** Madurai Division - Conversion of existing Insulated Over Lap in to PTFE type Neutral Section at Samayanallur/Feeding Post and relocation of Neutral Section available at Vaiyampatti/ Feeding Post to facilitate operation of 12/16 Car MEMUs	26,84,616.09	53,700	Nil	6 Months
2	**U-TRD-OT-21-22-IV-2:** Provision of double cleat arrangements for Traction bonds in Station Platforms available in Tiruchchirappalli- Dindigul - Madurai – Vanchi Maniyachchi – Tirunelveli & Vanchi Maniyachchi - Tuticorin section	9,96,660.00	19,900	Nil	6 Months

Tender Closing Date & Time: 22.04.2022 & 15:00 hours

For details interested persons may kindly be log on to website at **http://www.ireps.gov.in.** For eligibility criteria, other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the documents uploaded. All Addendum/Corrigendum, Time extension, Clarifications, etc. will be uploaded in the website only and will not be published separately in Newspapers. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

Divisional Railway Manager
(Traction Distribution), Madurai - 625016

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)
E-TENDER NOTICE NO: V/W/TVC/6/2022 DATED: 01.04.2022

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 for and on behalf of the President of India invites **ONLINE** tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

Sl. No	Description	Approx. value (₹ in lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of completion in months
1	Kottayam - Proposed Lift at PF No. 1 & 2/3 - (Balance works).	21.07	42200	THREE
2	Trivandrum - Nagercoil Section - Clearing of bushes from sides of cutting and deweeding of bushes in station yards, clearing of side drains and catch water drains. (For two years)	67.19	134400	TWENTY FOUR
3	Trivandrum - Division-Provision of duty cum store room for technician/Signal at left over stations at Vallalthole Nagar, Mulagunnthukave, Punkunnam, Ollur, Pudukkad, Irinjalakuda, Kalamassery, Ernakulam, Kottayam & Kumbalam stations.	91.78	183600	TWELVE
4	Painting of PF Shelters in Alleppey - Kayamkulam section and Repairs to PF shelter at AMPA and HAD stations.	47.88	95800	TWO
5	Proposed Under Water repairs of Bridges in Divisional Engineer/South Jurisdiction	67.65	135300	THREE
6	Ernakulam sub division - Proposed renewal of corroded members of steel girder bridges.	93.74	187500	THREE
7	Chengannur:- Repairs to damaged PF shelter roofing sheets on Platform No. 2 & 3	45.50	91000	TWO
8	Divisional Engineer/South-Supply of welding portion 60kg R-260 grade, equipment, and supervision of welding.	138.41	219200	TWELVE
9	Sr. Section Engineer/P.way/Quilon, Varkala, Trivandrum & Nagercoil-Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for monsoon night patrolling	19.67	39300	SEVEN
10	Destressing of LWR in Ernakulam sub division	52.25	104500	TWELVE
11	Thrissur-Proposed extension of new FOB to second entry side and modification of parking area.	83.89	167800	SIX
12	Ernakulam - Maintenance of Station Building, Service Building, Circulating Area, etc.	49.41	98800	FOUR
13	Kottayam-Improvements to circulating area in the main entry.	104.65	202300	TWELVE

Tender Closing date and time : **Sl. No. 1 to 7 : 25.04.2022 at 11.00 Hrs. Sl. No. 8 to 13 : 29.04.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.**

Details, approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **www.ireps.gov.in** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

SENIOR DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/ CO-ORDINATION, TRIVANDRUM-14

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Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Tesla delivered 310,000 vehicles in the first quarter, up roughly 68% from the same period in 2021, the company said Saturday. However the company's sales were slightly below expectations, which were looking for Tesla to produce 312,000 cars, according to Wedbush Securities. But the sales increase came even as Tesla battled a global shortage of computer chips and other parts

Twin tests for all residents in Shanghai to contain cases

COVID

SHANGHAI: China's business capital Shanghai on Sunday ordered the city's entire 26.3 million people to undergo twin tests to stop the spread of coronavirus, as the country reported 13,146 new Covid-19 cases, the highest daily increase in the number of infections in the latest outbreak.

Shanghai will conduct city-wide antigen testing on Sunday and nucleic acid testing on Monday amid efforts to contain the recent resurgence in the metropolis, according to the local authorities.

The testing measures are aimed at completely eliminating potential risks, cutting off the chain of transmission, curbing the spread of the virus, and achieving dynamic zero Covid-19 cases as soon as possible, the official media quoted Wu Qianyu, an official with the Shanghai Municipal Health Commission, as saying.

Shanghai reported 438 confirmed locally transmitted Covid-19 cases and 7,788 asymptomatic carriers on Saturday.

Wu said Shanghai was building more temporary hospitals to accommodate Covid-19 patients and major exhibition sites, including the Shanghai World Expo Exhibition & Convention Centre and Shanghai New International Expo Centre, that are being turned into temporary hospitals and quarantine centres.

The temporary hospitals are used to treat patients with mild symptoms of Covid-19 or those who are asymptomatic.

The World Expo centre, which was built in 2010, is now home to a 6,000-bedded temporary hospital, while SNIEC can hold about 14,000 patients.

EX FILE • ENVIRONMENT

New fuel economy standards in the US

New vehicles sold in the US will have to average at least 17 km per litre of gasoline in 2026, up from about 7.4 km/ litre, under the new federal rules unveiled on Friday that undo a rollback of standards enacted under former President Donald Trump. Here's a roundup

830 BILLION LITRES

The new rules will reduce gasoline consumption by 830 billion litres over the life of vehicles, compared with the standards introduced by Trump

STEP BY STEP INCREASE

The requirements increase gas mileage by **8% per year for** model years 2024 and 2025 and **10% in the 2026** model year

WILL THE STANDARDS SUFFICE?

Some environmental groups said the new requirements under Biden don't go far enough. The American Lung Association called for stronger standards to drive a transition to all new vehicles having zero emissions by

2035

MORE EXPENSIVE CARS

Auto dealers have a different story to tell. They say that more stringent requirements drive up prices and push people out of an already expensive new-car market. Projections say that the new rules will raise the price of a new vehicle in 2029 by $1,087

TRUMP STANDARDS

The former president had rolled back fuel economy standards, allowing them to rise 1.5% per year, which environmental groups said was inadequate.

The standards had been rising about 5% per year previously

RISE OF THE SUVS

When the Obama administration had updated the fuel economy standards in 2012, 51% of new vehicle sales were cars and 49% SUVs and trucks. Last year, 77% of new vehicle sales were SUVs and trucks, which are less efficient than cars. The Obama-era standards automatically adjusted for changes in the type of vehicles people were buying. The SUV market in the US today is led by Toyota RAV4 and closely followed by Honda CR-V

46%
INCREASE
From $2.88 per gallon for gasoline just a year ago, the prices have increased to more than

$4.22
per gallon. This nearly 50% increase is partly due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis

40
YEAR HIGH
Gas prices also have fueled inflation to a 40-year high, eating up household budgets and hitting President Joe Biden's approval ratings

2.5
BILLION METRIC TONNES
The vehicle owners would save about $1,400 in fuel during the lifetime of a 2029 model automobile and carbon dioxide emissions would drop by 2.5 billion metric tonnes by 2050

Scientists risk arrest to sound climate alarm

The group hopes to see 'high levels of disobedience' with more than 1,000 representatives worldwide acting against governments & academic institutions

CLIMATE

PARIS: A loosely federated network of scientists in more than two dozen countries plan acts of civil disobedience starting this week to highlight the climate crisis, members of Scientist Rebellion told *AFP*.

Their non-violent actions are timed to the release on Monday of a landmark report from the UN's climate science advisory panel laying out options for slashing carbon pollution and controversial schemes for extracting CO_2 from the air, they said in interviews.

Scientist Rebellion targets universities, research institutes and major scientific journals, prodding them and their staff to speak out more forcefully on what they describe as the existential threat of the global warming crisis.

"Scientists are particularly powerful messengers, and we have a responsibility to show leadership," said Charlie Gardner, a conservation scientist at the University of Kent specialised in tropical biodiversity.

"We are failing in that responsibility. If we say it's an emergency, we have to act like it is."

Starting Monday, the group hopes to see "high levels of disobedience" with more than 1,000 scientists worldwide taking part in direct non-violent action against government and academic institutions.

The world has seen a crescendo of deadly extreme weather amplified by rising temperatures—heatwaves, wildfires, flooding, storms engorged by rising seas—and a torrent of recent climate science projects worse to come.

Much of that research is distilled in periodic reports from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change.

Scientist Rebellion was founded in 2020 by two physics PhD students at St Andrews College in Scotland, inspired in part by the more broadly based Extinction Rebellion.

The group's first significant action with more than 100 scientists, in March 2021, targeted the British Royal Society and science publishing behemoth *Springer Nature*.

"We basically pasted enlarged copies of their journal articles calling for rapid transformative change onto their offices," said Kyle Topher, an environmental scientist from Australia and full-time activist for the group.

Scientist Rebellion was founded in 2020 by two physics PhD students at St Andrews College in Scotland, inspired partly by the Extinction Rebellion | FILEPICTURE

Needs urgent attention

Last year's COP26 climate summit in Glasgow saw a score of their members arrested.

"As far as we know this was the first mass arrest of scientists anywhere in the world since Carl Sagan protested nuclear weapons testing in the 1980s," said Gardner.

They also made headlines by leaking an early draft of IPCC report, which warned that carbon dioxide emissions need to peak within three years if the world is to keep the Paris Agreement targets for global warming in reach.

"As scientists, we tend to be risk averse—we don't want to risk our jobs, our reputations, and our time," said Rose Abramoff, a soil scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Knoxville, Tennessee and a Scientist Rebellion member.

"But it is no longer sufficient to do our research and expect others to read it and understand the severity and urgency of the climate crisis."

The aim of the group is to "make this crisis impossible to ignore", she added.

Many of its members are in the Global South, where climate change protests up to now have been more muted, even if the impacts are more keenly felt.

"I am not sure this is our last chance, but time is definitely running out," said Jordan Cruz, an environmental engineer in Ecuador who studies the devastating impact of mining industries on human communities in the Andes.

Sanctions could impact ISS: Roscosmos head

SPACE

MOSCOW : The head of Russia's space programme said on Saturday that the future of the International Space Station hangs in the balance after the United States, the European Union, and Canadian space agencies missed a deadline to meet Russian demands for lifting sanctions on Russian enterprises and hardware.

Dmitry Rogozin, the head of Roscosmos, told reporters that the state agency is preparing a report on the prospects of international cooperation at the station, to be presented to federal authorities "after Roscosmos has completed its analysis."

Rogozin implied on Russian state TV that the Western sanctions, some of which predate Russia's current military operations in Ukraine, could disrupt the operation of Russian spacecraft servicing the ISS with cargo flights. Russia also sends manned missions to the space station.

He stressed that the Western partners need the space station and "cannot manage without Russia, because no one but us can deliver fuel to the station."

Rogozin added that "only the engines of our cargo craft are able to correct the ISS's orbit, keeping it safe from space debris." Rogozin later wrote on Telegram that he received responses from his Western counterparts vowing to promote "further cooperation on the ISS and its operations."

He reiterated his view that "the restoration of normal relations between partners in the ISS and other joint (space) projects is possible only with the complete and unconditional lifting" of sanctions, which he referred to as illegal. The Canadian Space Agency declined to comment. NASA and the ESA did not immediately return emailed requests for comment.

Space is one of the last remaining areas of cooperation. US-Russian negotiations on the resumption of joint flights were underway when Russia launched its military operation in Ukraine last month, prompting unprecedented sanctions on state-linked entities.

Humans' love for alcohol from monkeys?

STUDY

NEW YORK: Monkeys are known to routinely consume various fruits containing alcohol, shedding light on our own taste for booze, finds a study that supports the 'drunken monkey' hypothesis.

A University of California Berkeley biologist Robert Dudley, in his book *The Drunken Monkey: Why We Drink and Abuse Alcohol*, released in 2014, proposed that human attraction to booze arose millions of years ago, when our ape and monkey ancestors discovered that the scent of alcohol led them to ripe, fermenting and nutritious fruit.

To explore, researchers at California State University, Northridge collected fruit eaten and discarded by black-handed spider monkeys in Panama. They found that the alcohol concentration in the fruit was typically between 1% and 2% by volume, a by-product of natural fermentation by yeasts that eat sugar in ripening fruit. Moreover, the researchers collected urine from these free-ranging monkeys and found that the urine contained secondary metabolites of alcohol. This result shows that the animals were actually utilising the alcohol for energy - it wasn't just passing through their bodies.

ONE FOR THE RAINS

People walk in a field of California poppies and other wildflowers outside of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve on Saturday, after recent rains moved the region's second-driest winter on record up to its seventh-driest | AFP

FACT OF THE MATTER

Drug shortages persist in Russia

HEALTH

First came the warnings, in messages among friends and families and on social media, to stock up on vital drugs in Russia before supplies were affected by crippling Western sanctions. Then, some drugs indeed became harder to find at pharmacies in Moscow and other cities. "Not a single pharmacy in the city has it now," a resident of Kazan said in late March about a blood thinner. Experts and health authorities in Russia say the drug shortages are temporary—due to panic buying and logistical difficulties for suppliers from the sanctions—but some are worried that high-quality medicines will keep disappearing in the Russian market.

Chinese hacker group back

CYBERSECURITY

A Chinese hacker group known as 'Deep Panda' that went into hibernation after attacking global entities some years ago, including in India, is back. Deep Panda has launched new attacks against finance, travel and cosmetic industries since last month, exploiting Log4Shell open source software vulnerability to deploy the new Fire Chili rootkit. During the past month, FortiGuard Labs detected a campaign by a Chinese advanced persistent threat hacking group that has been active for at least a decade, targeting government, defence, telecom, and financial organisations for data theft and surveillance.

Blood fats more harmful than thought

MEDICINE

Increased levels of blood fats, also known as lipids, in people with Type 2 diabetes and obesity are more harmful than previously thought, a new study has found. In patients with metabolic diseases, elevated fat levels in the blood create stress in muscle cells—a reaction to changes outside the cell which damage their structure and function. The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications* showed that these stressed-out cells give off a signal which can be passed on to other cells. The signals, known as ceramides, may have a protective benefit in the short-term, because they are part of a mechanism designed to reduce stress in the cell. But in metabolic diseases, which are long term conditions, the signals can kill the cells, make symptoms more severe, and worsen the illness, said researchers at University of Leeds in the UK. Increased fat in the blood has long been known to damage tissues and organs, contributing to the development of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases including Type 2 diabetes. The condition can be caused by obesity, rates of which have nearly tripled worldwide between 1975 and 2020.

TRACING THE ROOTS

A rare Pablo Picasso exhibition in his lands of inspiration

ART

DAKAR: An unprecedented Picasso exhibition opened this week in Senegal's capital Dakar, where about a dozen of the Spanish master's works are displayed alongside African art, from which he drew inspiration.

A pioneering modern artist who died in France in 1973, Pablo Picasso left behind a vast and influential body of work including paintings, sculptures and ceramics. He was one of the founders of the Cubist movement, and was heavily inspired by African art, with the influence notable in seminal paintings such as "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon".

However, Picasso's interest in Africa remains relatively unknown in Senegal.

El Hadji Malick Ndiaye, an art historian and one of the curators of the Dakar exhibition, said that every African should be proud of how the continent's art had inspired Picasso.

Visitors should leave with "a sense of pride in what the continent's artists have given, and in the diversity of styles that have generated new forms and nourished modern art," he said. The exhibition sees about 15 of Picasso's works hosted in Dakar's Museum of Black Civilisations, on loan from Paris. Alongside them are displayed works of African art, such as

Visitors should leave with a sense of pride in what the continent's artists have given

El Hadji Malick Ndiaye, an art historian and one of the curators of the Dakar exhibition

otherworldly traditional masks, which so fascinated the influential artist.

Whistling mask

According to the exhibition curators, Picasso's interest in African art began with a 1907 visit to the Trocadero Ethnological Museum in Paris, which has since closed.

The same year, he painted "Les Demoiselles d'Avignon"—which features five female nudes, two of whom are depicted with faces that bear striking similarities to traditional African masks.

A study of the painting is on display in Dakar, paired with an African mask appearing to depict a whistling face.

Cecile Debray, the president of the Picasso Museum in Paris, described Picasso as having a "very relaxed relationship to his sources," mixing Romanesque, Iberian and African influences. The Spanish artist, drawn by the novelty of non-Western artistic traditions, is known to have collected masks and statues from both Africa and Oceania for his studio.

Recent historiography has also highlighted his interest in the spiritual or magical dimensions of such art.

Despite Picasso's interest in Africa, he seldom travelled and never set foot on the continent, according to Debray.

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04.04.2022
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Leader assassinated

On this day in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr was assasinated on the balcony outside his hotel room in Memphis, Tennessee

THE RISE OF THE KING

Martin Luther King Jr was the 20th century's most influential civil rights leader, and was famous for using nonviolent resistance to overcome injustice

ACCOLADES AND IMPACT

In 1964, he became the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize; his acceptance speech is thought to be among the most powerful remarks ever delivered

AN UNFORGOTTEN LEGACY

King is forever memorialised on the third Monday of January every year — 'Martin Luther King Jr Day' — a holiday instated by the USA

Art director Shivakumar J on KGF - Chapter 2

PG 4

C SUBRAMANIAM, FATHER OF RAJ SUBRAMANIAM, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF FEDEX, TALKS TO *CE* ABOUT HIS SON'S NEW ROLE, THE RELATIONSHIP THEY SHARE AND MORE

SUCCESS DELIVERED

SANATH PRASAD

IT is said that hard work and merit can take one to great heights, but sometimes having a little luck can spring some good surprises too. In Raj Subramaniam's case, chance played a crucial role in opening the doors to one of the world's largest international courier services companies — FedEx.

After Frederick W Smith announced Raj, a native of Thiruvananthapuram, as the new CEO of the global delivery giant recently, his father, C Subramaniam, couldn't help but remember how luck was on Raj's side when he applied for the job at FedEx during an economic recession in USA in 1991. Subramaniam recalls how a candidate from Chennai had backed out from the job opening at FedEx, giving Raj — who had just completed his MBA in the US and returned to India — the opportunity to fill in. He caught the next flight, attended the interview at FedEx headquarters in Memphis and joined as a junior analyst.

"The job came more as a chance than desire," says Subramaniam, who lived in Bengaluru for five years and still has family here.

Subramaniam was quite confident that his son Raj would someday make it big. "It's a divine blessing", says Subramaniam, adding, "I knew this boy was on his way up and would become the CEO at some point in life. But I did not expect it to be this soon. Astrological findings had said it might be later in life." He points out that he took the good news in stride and, "I'm not over-enthusiastic about this new development," says Subramaniam, who has now settled in Thiruvananthapuram.

The former DGP of Kerala believes his son is a man with many ideas. From analysing geopolitics to being a sports enthusiast, especially cricket, the proud father observes that Raj showed interest in multiple domains. "We are good friends. I have always admired him for his humility. He is very spiritually inclined and is a man of integrity," says the 87-year-old adding that his second son, Rajiv Subramaniam, also works as a computer engineer at FedEx.

Raj Subramaniam

Though Subramaniam was an IPS officer, they lived a middle class life. There were even some struggles to finance Raj's education. "Although I retired as a DGP, we had middle class life. So, Raj pursued MS in chemical engineering in New York and MBA in Texas on scholarship. I advised him to primarily focus on studies and get on well with life without any distractions," says Subramaniam.

Now that Raj is leading a multinational company, they speak once a month. "He is so tied up with work that we get to speak only once a month. But whenever he calls, we discuss current affairs," Subramaniam says. Sharing a piece of advice he gave to his son, Subramaniam says, "The three basic things that I told him after his appointment as the CEO is to maintain humility, integrity and a spiritual base."

LET'S TALK FUTURE

C Subramaniam told his son Raj Subramaniam to pursue IAS at the age of 18. Raj refused and responded, "IAS is not my future. This is the age of technology and not the age of files."

C Subramaniam

PIC: VINCENT PULICKAL

TRUE COLOURS OF SPRING

ArtMantram with Brickwork Ratings organised Art in The Park on Sunday where 29 artists were engaged in live painting at Cubbon Park. Prominent artists like Mridul Chandra (above), Roopa Lakshmi, Shan Re and more were part of this initiative. | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

WATCH LIST

Dune (English)

Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

Winner of six Oscars in the recently-concluded Academy Awards, *Dune* is a film that makes for a good OTT binge-watch. Paul Atreides arrives on Arrakis after his father accepts the stewardship of the dangerous planet. However, chaos ensues after a betrayal as forces clash to control a precious resource. The story revolves around how Atreides, a young man born into a great destiny, will ensure the future of his people by taking on the battle in the dangerous planet.

Cast: Timothée Chalamet, Rebecca Ferguson, Oscar Isaac

Jeff Foxworthy: The Good Old Days (English)

Streaming: Netflix

Honesty is his only policy. In his first solo stand-up special in 24 years, Jeff Foxworthy remembers the good old days. Foxworthy jokes about how cellphones evolved over the period of many years , changing its utility every now and then. Foxworthy discusses parenting (your children and your parents), texting, the joy of getting a butt dial, conversations with his wife and his 'good old' days. Or was it? Catch all that and more, in his new stand up comedy show.

Cast: Jeff Foxworthy

Spencer (English)

Streaming: Amazon Prime Video

Catch *Spencer*, a film that was nominated for the Academy Awards. Princess Diana and Prince Charles' marriage has been dormant for a long time. Despite rumours of their divorce, the Christmas celebrations are set to be peaceful. There's shooting and hunting, as well as eating and drinking. Diana is well-versed in the game. This year, however, things will be different. Spencer is a fictitious account of what might have occurred during those tragic days.

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Sally Hawkins, Timothy Spall

Whiff of luxury

City-based brands are coming up with exotic perfumes, an attempt to put Bengaluru on the fragrance business map

MONIKA MONALISA

CHANEL No 5, Miss Dior, Bloom By Gucci...these are just a few names that have dominated the luxury fragrance industry. While these continue to be popular favourites, city-based brands are now coming up with exotic perfumes.

For instance, take Topnote by Ramya Rajaram, a daily-wear affordable luxury brand. The vegan and paraben-free brand plays with notes like vetiver and patchouli. "A modern progressive fragrance line... that's how I would like to describe it. It has an international touch but is made for the Indian audience," says Rajaram, a digital marketeer, who had a tough quarter during the pandemic but is bouncing back. The prices of perfumes start at ₹1,899 for 50ml, which Rajaram terms 'affordable luxury'.

City-based entrepreneur Ally Matthan, who started her fragrance line of customised perfume in 2004, points out that the idea of exotic perfumes and fragrances have always been associated with royal courts. "We had Mughals and Mysore royalty who patronised all of this. We can't call it ahead of its time because fragrances were a part of our royals and temples. We might not have had it bottled but used it in a far more luxurious context," says Matthan.

Bengaluru comprises a well-travelled audience with a lot of exposure. So, the art of picking the right fragrance is not new to Bengalureans. C Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers, a 150-year-old jewellery brand, has recently diversified into perfumes with Rare Scents. They offer five different fragrances, which Chaitanya V Cotha, executive director of the brand, calls a 'niche category of perfumes'. "For a luxury jeweller like us, luxury perfumes were thought of as a good brand fit. We wanted to create the first luxury perfume brand from India that could compete with any global brand. We also have offerings which are infused with 24-karat gold flakes," says Cotha, adding that most of the ingredients are from over 25 different countries. Rare scent is available in 50ml and 100mls, and are priced ₹4,999 for 50ml.

> *A modern progressive fragrance line... that's how I would like to describe the vegan and paraben-free perfume brand*
>
> - Ramya Rajaram, entrepreneur

GRUB HUB

Debolina Ray, a Bengaluru-based food & travel blogger who runs a blog called She Knows Grub, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE*. The first prize winner this week will win a voucher worth ₹2,000 from Louis Burger**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Kosambari 2) Chitranna/Puliyogare 3) Ugadi Pachadi, Neem flower

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Poonam M Iyer 2. R Rajesh 3. Jithin

***Conditions apply**

CITY READ

Graduation Day held in school

BBUL Jain School recently celebrated Graduation Day for the 2022 batch. The event was graced by DP Prakash, executive director, Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation, members of the managing committee, principal, and vice principal, among others.

BEL signs contract with MoD

The Ministry of Defence (MoD), Government of India, recently signed two contracts, worth ₹3,102 crore with the Bengaluru and Hyderabad units of Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), at New Delhi. The MoD and BEL-Bengaluru concluded a contract for supply of Advanced Electronic Warfare (EW) suite for fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force. The overall cost of the contract is estimated to be ₹1,993 crore. The supply of advanced EW systems aim to enhance the battle-survivability of IAF fighter aircraft while undertaking operational missions against adversaries' ground-based as well as airborne fire control and surveillance radars.

DANCE WORKSHOP

High on Heels presents Soar 4.0. Artistes Dhiraj Bhakshi, Donny, Hari Haran, Akanksha Sharma and Bhaskar Kittu will be performing.
When: April 8-10
Details: 81472 47706

RUDRAKHA EXHIBITION

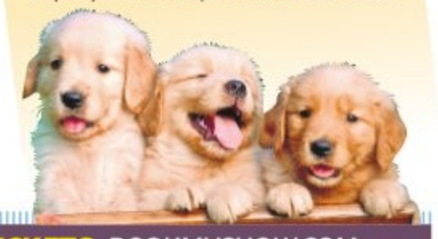
Rudralife is organising an exhibition cum sale of Rudraksha. You can choose from various power combinations including Saraswati Bandh, Kaal Sarp Dosh Nivarak, Siddha Mala, and Gaurishankar rudraksha, among others. **When:** Till April 5 **Where:** Hotel Ajantha, MG Road **Details:** 93200 77018

HANDLOOM SALE

Saree brand Kankatala, in collaboration with bridal designer Mahitha Prasad, is displaying a unique edition of Bespoke Kanchipuram Lehengas, this wedding season. The edition features Kanchipuram lehenga choli and dupatta sets carrying pieces of Maharashtra's Paithani, elements of Banarasi silk among other combinations. The collection is displayed at **Cosmopolitan Club, Jayanagar.**

PET THERAPY

SteppinOut X HUFT presents PettinOut, a fun day to step out with your pets. Drop by for a day of fun, games, movie night, grooming and yummy treats. **When:** April 17 **Where:** JW Marriott Hotel



CATCH STAND UP COMEDIAN **ANIRBAN DASGUPTA** PERFORM LIVE AT BANGALORE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, DOMLUR | **WHEN:** APRIL 9 | **TICKETS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

Party Time

Sunburn Arena makes a comeback with Alan Walker for his exclusive India Tour 2022. He's the hitmaker of songs *Faded*, *Alone*, *On My Way* and more.
When: April 14 onwards **Details:** bookmyshow.com

Ethnic Wear

Fashion brand Soch is launching a summer collection of ethnic wear ahead of the festive season. The collection includes sarees, salwar suits, kurtas, tunics, kurti suits and lehengas available in colours like white, pink, red, yellow, blue, green etc. **Available at** Soch website

Kathak Performance

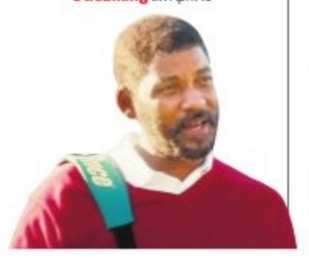
Kathak dancer Yuktha Pawar, disciple of dancer Simran Godhwani, will be presenting her Kathak Rangpravesh. **When:** April 10, 5.30 pm **Where:** Satya Sai Auditorium, Koramangala

Eat Healthy

MoMo Café at Courtyard by Marriott, Bellandur, is offering a wide range of healthy diet menu. It includes Quinoa Apple Kheer, Multigrain Khichdi with Edamame and Haricot Beans, Barley Curd Rice, Bajra Kachumber with citrus fruits, Baked fish with Sauce Vierge among others. **Price:** ₹ 1,099++ For reservations, **call:** 95136 53156

Show-time

Catch your favourite movies streaming on BookMyShow. Watch the Best Actor Oscar winner Will Smith's *King Richard*, and BookMyShow originals, including *The Assassination of JFK*, *Dalgliesh* and *Dark Wood* along with the Dutch drama *The East*. **Streaming** till April 15



Dance Workshop

This workshop explores primary and technical movements on a wider scale that are inspired by Floorwork, Animal flow, Yoga and Mobility workouts. During the session, you will be playing with gravity, time, momentum, weight and emotions while using all the possibilities of the human body with creative and fresh methods.
When: April 8 **Where:** Artikhoj, JP Nagar

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

ONE-POT RAW KATHAL BIRYANI

INGREDIENTS

Marinate 250gms raw jackfruit pieces with the following marination:
For ground paste:

- 4-6 garlic cloves
- 1" ginger
- 1" piece cinnamon
- 4-5 cloves
- 3-4 green cardamoms
- 8-10 peppercorns
- 1 black cardamom
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 2-3 whole red chillies
- Salt to taste
- Mix ground paste with 150-200 ml thick curd and keep it aside for an hour.

METHOD

- Add oil & 2-3 whole bay leaves with cumin seeds. To this, add 2 sliced onions. Once they brown, add marinated jackfruit. Cook for 10-15 minutes.
- Introduce 2 pureed tomatoes, cook till there is condensation. Add turmeric powder, coriander powder and salt. Layer this with Basmati rice, adding water in the ratio of 1: 3 rice to water, with salt.
- Cover and cook on slow flame for 20-25 min.
- When done, add fried onions, cashews, saffron soaked water, few drops of Kewra water, mint leaves. Cover for another 5-10 min. Before serving, garnish with a tbsp of ghee, crisp fried onions, cashews and mint leaves.

— **Khushboo Nagpal, Bengaluru** (IG: @kaotickhush)

FIT BIT

PARSHVA VAYU MUKTYASANA

(SIDEWAYS WIND RELIEVING POSE)

This asana is a relaxing yoga pose, done with lying on the side of your body right after the practice of Savasana. This can be done at the end of a yoga sequence to relax the body, muscles, and calm breathing for those who find lying on their backs challenging, such as senior citizens, pregnant women, trauma survivors, and students with a back injury. In such cases, this asana forms part of the restorative yoga sequence. It is considered a warm-up yoga pose to prepare the body for more intense yoga flows.

STEPS

- At the end of yoga practice, relaxing is a must.
- After the practice of sequence of postures, you can relax the heart rate and the body muscles with this pose.
- For example, if you have practised Setubandha Sarvangasana (Bridge Pose), start relaxing by coming to Savasana (Corpse Pose) with bent knees.
- Now, inhale and take the torso towards the left side with bent knees together and rest the body.
- Then, place your palms together in front of your face on the floor.
- Remain here in Side Fetal Pose to relax the breathing and the body in 10 rounds of breath.
- When you relax breathing, you can close your eyes and feel the benefits of the asana.
- You can come to the original position and relax.

BENEFITS

- Lowers the blood pressure and heart rate.
- When practised on the right side, it slows down the nervous system, relaxing the body and the mind.
- The left nostril, when used to encourage the flow of energy, opens the right side of the brain.
- Left-side practice helps good digestion. It encourages easy movement of the food waste between the intestines.
- Lying on the left side improves the circulatory system, reducing pressure on the varicose veins.
- Improves blood flow to the fetus and blood circulation to the heart.
- Your heart, spleen and pancreas help in improved lymphatic drainage.
- It opens the left side of the brain.

LIMITATIONS

- Practise with your head and chest raised on a bolster if you have respiratory ailments or anxiety during pregnancy.
- Those with backaches can lie with their back on the floor, rest the calves on the seat of a chair, with thighs perpendicular to the floor.

By N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

MAMAMIA OUT LOUD

The show that's smart, often silly and sometimes surprising, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Absolutely everything is up for discussion: from pop culture to politics, body image to motherhood.
- **On Apple Podcasts**

CALL HER DADDY

Alex Cooper bulldozes a lane of her own, spitting in the face of misogyny and putting a modern twist on feminism.
- **On Spotify**

ARMCHAIR EXPERT

A weekly podcast hosted by American actors Dax Shepard and Monica Padman, each episode features the duo interviewing celebrities, journalists, and academics about "the messiness of being human".
- **On Spotify**

MAINTENANCE PHASE

Debunking the junk science behind health fads, wellness scams and nonsensical nutrition advice.
- **On Apple Podcasts**

THE MINDSET MENTOR

This is for anyone desiring motivation, direction, and focus in life. Host Rob Dial works with the principle that when you master your mindset, you master your life.
- **On Google Podcasts**

WOMEN IN LABOUR

Hosted by comedian, Aditi Mittal and filmmaker, Christina MacGillivray, Women In Labour asks questions like, 'Why do women do the most unpaid work in the world?', 'What's stopping us from finding our inner boss?', 'Why do we preface our work emails with – I was just wondering...'? And the big one: 'What's keeping us away from India's workplaces?'
- **On Spotify**

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

DHARMADURAI

Dharmadurai, a heartbroken doctor, turns to alcohol and becomes the source of embarrassment for his family. However, a meeting with an old friend changes his life for good.
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Srushti Dange, Aishwarya Rajesh, Tamannaah

IRAIVI

Three men, who are financially struggling, get involved in criminal activities to improve their financial status. However, they end up in prison and their wives are forced to lead an independent life.
Cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Bobby Simha, SJ Surya, Anjali

NAMMAVAR

Selvam, the new vice principal of a college, tries to transform the behaviour of troublemaking students while fighting an inner war.
Cast: Kamal Haasan, Gautami, Karan, Nagesh

AATHI

Aadhi comes to Chennai for his education and meets Anjali, falling in love with her. Soon, they learn that they are both on a mission to avenge the death of their parents.
Cast: Vijay, Prakash Raj, Trisha, Vivek

JOKER

Mannar Mannan, a villager, declares himself as the president of India and fights corruption and social injustices
Cast: Guru Somasundaram, Ramya Pandian, Gayathri

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 ARE AD AGENCIES, PR FIRMS AND LOBBYISTS DESTROYING THE CLIMATE? BY SOLITAIRE TOWNSEND

Sustainability solution seeker Solitaire Townsend exposes the X industry's (professional services, management consultancies, corporate law firms, lobbyists and more) massive but invisible influence on the environment and ways they can use their skills to fix climate change.

2 THE "GREENHOUSE-IN-A-BOX" EMPOWERING FARMERS IN INDIA BY SATHYARAGHU MOKKAPATI

TED Fellow Sathya Raghu Mokkapati is determined to change the unreliability of farming with "greenhouse-in-a-box": a small, low-cost, easy-to-build structure to help farmers weather sizzling summers.

3 CLIMATE ACTION NEEDS NEW FRONTLINE LEADERSHIP BY OZAWA BINESHI ALBERT

An indigenous woman living in the US, climate justice organiser Ozawa Bineshi Albert observed an alarming disconnect between empty promises made by corporations and the actual needs of communities on the ground. She advocates for climate policy to centre frontline leaders and outlines some grassroots-led projects that have already sparked change.

4 WHY PLAY IS ESSENTIAL FOR BUSINESS BY MARTIN REEVES

Strategist Martin Reeves makes a pitch for embracing play to spark innovative business ideas and invites you to try out a series of imagination games that he uses to get leaders to stretch their thinking and dream up new possibilities.

5 WHY IS CHINA APPOINTING JUDGES TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE? BY JAMES K THORNTON

Why is China appointing thousands of judges to environmental courts, even if it means suing the government? Eco-lawyer James Thornton takes us inside the country's growing efforts to use the power of the courts to address environmental problems – a little-known story that indicates China could become a champion of legal action on climate.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

DHUMMAS (Gujarati)

A conversation between a young woman and her ageing grandmother-in-law reveals tales of repressed desires, invisible oppression and the insidious ways in which patriarchy works.
Cast: Sonali Bharadwaj, Pramodini Nanavati, Sunita Shirsolkar
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

TARI SATHE (Gujarati)

Two youngsters ready to get get married must decide what's important. The girl wants security and stability, while the boy hopes for love and affection.
Cast: Jinal Belani, Bhavya Gandhi, Jhinal Benali
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

NAVA RASA (Tamil, series)

The nine episodes represent a different emotion or rasa such as anger, compassion, courage, disgust, fear, laughter, love, peace or wonder.
Cast: Prayaga Martin, Parvathy Thiruvothu, Suriya, Gautham Vasudev Menon
- **Watch on:** Netflix

DOCTOR (Tamil)

When a military doctor tracks down his former fiancee's kidnapped niece, he discovers a complex human trafficking ring in Goa. He then weaves an intricate trap to capture the perpetrators.
Cast: Priyanka Mohan, Sivakarthikeyan, Redin Kingsley
- **Watch on:** Netflix

KAASAV (Marathi)

A mother sea-turtle has to return to the waters leaving the eggs for nesting on the shore. The nests are to be protected so that the newborn turtles can go into the deep waters on their own. The nonviolent, non-aggressive turtle is a metaphor and much more.
Cast: Mohan Agashe, Iravati Harshe, Omkar Ghadi
Watch on: Sony LIV

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

QUBOOL HAI? (Telugu-Dakhani, series)

Many cases of under-aged girls getting married go unnoticed at the Talabkatta Police Station, where a new police officer Bhanu has been transferred.
Cast: Mahesh Chinthala, Vinay Varma, Dr Kamakshi Bhaskarla
- **Watch on:** Aha

KESU EE VEEDINTE NADHAN (Malayalam)

Driving instructor Keshu and his family journey to Rameswaram in order to complete his late father's final rituals. Something unforeseen happens en route, which changes his life.
Cast: Dileep, Kavitha Ranjini, Nadirsha
- **Watch on:** Disney+Hotstar

FOREIGN

DEEP WATER (English)

A well-to-do husband who allows his wife to have affairs in order to avoid a divorce, becomes a prime suspect in the disappearance of her lovers.
Cast: Ana de Armas, Ben Affleck, Jacob Elordi
- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

BUSINESS PROPOSAL (Korean)

Disguised as her friend, Ha-ri shows up on a blind date to scare away her friend's prospective suitor. However, plans go awry when he turns out to be Ha-ri's CEO and he makes a proposal.
Cast: Ahn Hyo-seop, Seol In-ah, Kim Sejeong
- **Watch on:** Netflix

WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE (Peruvian)

The opposite lives of a workaholic architect and a fiery artist are upended when their chance encounter in breathtaking Peru shifts their views on life.
Cast: Stephanie Cayo, Maxi Iglesias
- **Watch on:** Netflix

FREE GUY (English)

When a bank teller discovers he's actually a background player in an open-world video game, he decides to become the hero of his own story – one that he can rewrite himself. In a world where there's no limits, he's determined to save the day his way before it's too late, and maybe find a little romance with the coder who conceived him.
Cast: Ryan Reynolds, Jodie Comer, Dwayne Johnson
- **Watch on:** Disney+Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION

Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 499 per year
Apple TV: ₹ 99 per month
Prime Video: ₹ 179 per month
Netflix: ₹ 149 per month

MAKING HORMONES HAPPY

RUBINATIONS
Rubi Chakravarti

Writer, actor and funny girl

I remember my geriatric uncle complaining bitterly about the changing face of *namma ooru*. He bemoaned the fact that the ugly esplanade on MG Road had 'eaten-up' all the beautiful Gulmohar trees that bloomed there, lathering the road with a multi-hued carpet of crushed flowers. Of course, he failed to mention that his scooter had skidded many times on that beautiful faux Persian rug of flowers and he had broken bones to prove that fact! My mom had warned him that, the next time, she would do the honours by breaking his bones herself!

Everyone has a 'coloured' memory of what Bengaluru was like, with each generation ruing that things had got worse. I have memories of Bengaluru as a child, where the weather was great, the people were refined and life on the whole revolved around living in a Cantonment, teeming with men in uniform; where entertainment meant seeing a movie or partying at the Bangalore Club.

When I returned as a teenager from Mumbai (mostly as a punishment posting; to get away from my boyfriend-now-husband) to finish my graduation in Mount Carmel College, I was taken aback with the unplanned growth of *namma ooru*. Bengaluru was over-run by ugly concrete structures and a lot of 'outsiders' who didn't intrinsically reflect the ethos of our city. New-age restaurants, serving an odd mix of cuisine and bands playing in dimly-lit nightclubs (where youngsters clutched onto each other without their parent's knowledge) abounded... A small city desperately trying to imitate a big one. At the stroke of 9 pm, magically everyone scattered lest their carriages turned back into pumpkins, leaving a silence and emptiness behind.

That 'changing face' is quite innocent compared to what is happening today. Now, hunters prowl the city which is still quite naive and trusting. The good people of this city still open up their hearts and hearth and many charlatans are taken at face value.

In a city that is bursting at its seams with new hotels, bars, restaurants, malls and the like....it's an easy 'prey-ground' for the unscrupulous. Many traditional families have children who want to 'belong'. They work hard and play harder and gaining access to them is surprisingly easy. Brought up in a shielded environment, they rarely do a background check of people with doubtful antecedents. And because 'Flimflammers' (I assure you it's a bona fide word!) abound in a city that accredits grifters with telling the truth, the rot runs deep. Truth is stranger than fiction, I am told!

Farman Alis with Reuben Kataria

But one has to find a spot in the sunshine and there is no better combination than Mexican food, tequila and 'gup-shup'! Three 'auld Bangaloreans' went to lunch with the delightful chef Vikas Seth who was all ears to our conversation as he plied us with more tequila! After, we 'girls' went to a mall (haven't been to one for over two years) and bought ourselves comfy shoes and make-up. What good fun!

My cup runneth over as good friend Reuben Kataria and the most famous Awadhi chef sent home some extra-ordinary 'Dadi-jaan ka qorma', loosely translated means Grandmom's secret mutton recipe! With all mayhem that took place in March...I still choose happiness!

Eating good food releases 'happy hormones...and I'm sticking to that story!

Vikas Seth and Usha Subramaniam

CITY READ

Govt body celebrates financial success

Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited Company has achieved a gross turnover of ₹919.16 crore, a growth of 20 per cent over the previous year, while the net profit made by the company during the year 2020-21 is ₹113.95 crore. The dividend cheque of ₹22.78 crore was handed to chief minister Basavaraj Bommai recently. K Madal Virupakshappa, chairman and MLA Channagiri constituency, and Mahesh B Shirur, IFS, managing director, KS&DL were present at the event.

Annual convocation to take place in the city

The first annual convocation of Bengaluru City University will be held on April 11 at 10.30 am at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Palace Road. Thawar Chand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka and chancellor of Bengaluru City University, will preside over the convocation. Dr K Kasturirangan, former chairman, ISRO and chairman, drafting committee, NEP – 2020, will be the chief guest and deliver the convocation address. Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Minister for Higher Education, Government of Karnataka and pro-chancellor, will grace the occasion.

New to Bengaluru? This guide might help you explore *namma ooru*'s iconic food, tourism and cultural landmarks

DRAWING ON

SANATH PRASAD

WHAT if travel, food, art and a creative mind met at one place? It would definitely culminate in an eye-catching visual piece. This is exactly what Pune-based freelance illustrator **Shikha Nambiar** is working on. Having studied and worked in Bengaluru for seven years, Nambiar explored the diverse iconic landmarks that shaped Bengaluru's cultural space. From CTR Shri Sagar in Malleswaram to Rangashankara in JP Nagar, she explored, networked and ended up working on *Bangalore: An illustrated guide*, a 35-page guide to 33 of Bengaluru's iconic landmarks in the food, tourism, and community space. "Although I am currently in Pune, my heart is in Bengaluru. The illustrated piece is a guide for those who are moving to Bengaluru for the first time and are looking forward to explore the city's diverse food spaces, cultural landmarks, communities and much more," says Nambiar, a visual communications graduate from the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Yelahanka. In fact, she has finished the illustration work of 100 locations in Bengaluru, but managed to accommodate only 33 of them.

Nambiar started working on the project in 2016 and completed it in 2017. However, with places like Humming Tree in Indiranagar closing and Atta Galatta in Koramangala moving spaces, Nambiar wanted to re-

place them with new places and launched her third edition of the updated guide. "The new places include Indian Coffee House, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Tibetan Shopping Mall, Nagarjuna restaurants, Truffles, and Dyu Art Cafe," says the 36-year-old, who has also done different artworks themed around Bengaluru, including postcards, sticker sets, and jigsaw puzzles.

The guide which is priced at ₹350, starts with Koshy's restaurant on St Marks Road and takes you through a series of other landmark locations, Cubbon Park, KR Market, Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace, The Bangalore Palace, among other places. The illustrated guide also comes with one-liners that carry a short history about the place. She also referred to many books, including Peter Colaco's *Bangalore, A Century of Tales From City & Cantonment* and newspaper articles to infer the stories behind the landmark locations.

"I am an avid traveller and always include history and culture in my work. In fact, there is also an illustration of Bengaluru's map and I am currently working on an illustrated guide on Pune," says Nambiar.

One of Shikha Nambiar's illustrations

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quofles

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Grave and beautiful

Elden Ring starts with a simple enough character selection and customisation. A straightforward tutorial later, you realise that the game is just a matter of passing through the Stranded Graveyard to reach Limgrave, head straight past the first Site of Grace in the open realm to the nearest dungeon and obtain some unique wares as you crawl past enemies around the Church of Elleh and the Gatefront Ruins.

Through this journey, you understand the importance of memorising spells, maintaining stamina, and keeping an eye out for status ailments — blood loss, poison, madness. You also learn that it is prudent to stealthily sneak past enemies that you would rather avoid. If you are anything like me, I would think you've also written all you learn in your neatest handwriting in a custom Elden Ring cheat sheet.

You may still manage to slash through a bit of Limgrave with hardly a tear shed, but I am assured that you will ugly-weep when you find out that the map that just unfurled in your menu screen indicates that you are hardly 2 per cent into the game. This took you 20 hours. It was at this point that I realised that Elden Ring is so good, that it made me look bad as a gamer. A few months into the future, if I am worthy, then maybe, only maybe — I will no longer be a "Tarnished" of no renown. I have already lost all hopes of being an Elden Lady.

A mere casual who has spent over 200 hours on Stardew Valley, I have no embarrassment in admitting that Elden Ring is simply not for me. I do, however, understand its wide appeal for gamers in how it stands apart from AAA games that we typically see. The region is so well created, with specific and evident landmarks, I hardly found the need to use the map. There are so many creatures and beings to discover and fight, with a whole range of creative spells that could be used to destroy them. The game also lets you scoop scrolls that provide clues on secrets — hidden caves and passageways, and detail lore associated with the exploration. It is available to play on the PlayStations, Xboxes and PC. I rate the game 5/7 cerulean tears.

SEALED WITH A KISS

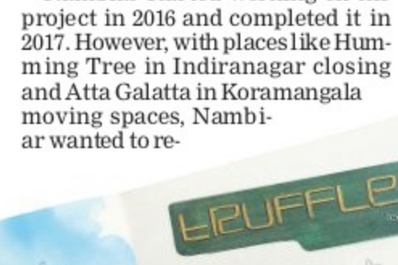
PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

(The author is social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

DURING the pandemic, one's eyes were the mirror of a smile as lips were hidden behind the masks. Yet, the obsessive culture over lips could not go unnoticed. The prevalent popular culture pays more heed to lips. Scrolling through Instagram, you get to see all sorts of enhanced lips and shapes. While many may have opted to go natural, your lips are something to take pride in. So, how can we choose to ignore it?

Spring season comes with a plethora of colours and yet we often find our lips dry and chapped. Applying lipsticks on chapped lips is not such an attractive idea either. While there is no quick solution to this, there are ways you can take care of it.

Have you heard of the term 'moisture sandwich'? What is this trend? Let us understand how to have kissable lips sealed with moisture. Of course, we all use chapsticks but it doesn't lock in moisture for good. Lips don't have sebaceous glands, so even chapstick can only give temporary hydration.



LIP SLEEPING MASKS

Here's a hack for your weekly routine. The lip masks (a mix of antioxidants, hyaluronic acid and other humectants) make your lips soft and moist when you wake up in the morning.

So, as you take care of your body grooming and face, don't ignore your lips.

HOW TO CREATE A MOISTURE SANDWICH

This Instagram trend has sorted the lips worry for many. Here's how it works:

To moisten your lips, take a few sips of water. This will act as a base to further steps.

Next step is to use a cream or balm on your lips. Rub it generously on the already moist lips.

Seal this moisture by using Vaseline which will act as a occlusive to save the lips from drying . This shall save the lips from air and prevent them from further drying, while the cream or balm will help the middle layer of the lips. And voila, you got the trend right and now your lips are moisturised.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NAGARAJA P,** son of Late Palani, aged about 52 years, residing at No. 6, 1st main, 2nd Cross, Near Cowdeshwari Temple, Chowdeshwari Nagar, Laggere, Bangalore 560058. have changed my name from **NAGARAJA P** to **NAGARAJ P** vide affidavit Dated: 01/04/2022 before Notary S. VIJAYAKUMAR, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **BHARATH N,** son of Nagaraj P, aged about 22 years, residing at No. 6, 1st main, 2nd Cross, Near Cowdeshwari Temple, Chowdeshwari Nagar, Laggere, Bangalore 560058. have changed my name from **BHARATH N** to **BHARATH NAGARAJ** vide affidavit Dated: 01/04/2022 before Notary S. VIJAYAKUMAR, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SERVICE NO 15331322M** L/NK VITTHAL KURUBAR of unit 10 FD COY, 6 ENGR REGT, C/O 56 APO, Pin-914006, have changed my name self **(OLD NAME) VITTHAL KURUBAR** to **(NEW NAME) VITTHAL KALLIMANI** and Father Name **(OLD NAME) SHIDRAMAPPA KURUBAR** to **(NEW NAME) SHIDARAYAPPA KALLIMANI** vide affidavit dated 29.03.2022 sworn before notary Meer Hassan, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **(old Name) R. DEVI** spouse of NO 15320119W THM RAYI SRINU Residing at 58-12-180, Durgapuram (Vill), N.A.D (Post), Visakhapatnam (Dist), Andhra Pradesh (State), Pin: 530009, have changed my name to **(NEW NAME) RAYI DEVI,** Vide Affidavit Dated 26.03.2022 sworn Before Notary S.I. Balaguru Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHAKAMBHARI THAKUR,** previously called **SHAKAMBHARI,** Aged 40 years, W/o. Tarun Kumar Gupta, Residing at No.48, Sahyadri Luxury Homes, Madhuranagar Main Road, Varthur, Bengaluru-560 087. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'SHAKAMBHARI' to "SHAKAMBHARI THAKUR"** vide Affidavit dated 01.04.2022, Sworn before Advocate Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **IMRAN SHARIEF AMEER JAN,** S/o, Ameer Jan, Residing at, No.336, Munibhairappa Block, Devarajeevanahalli, Bangalore-560045, have changed my Previous Name **IMRAN SHARIEF AMEER JAN** to New Name **IMRAN SHARIEFF,** vide Affidavit Dated:30-03-2022, before the Notary Public, M.N.Sivakumara, Bengaluru for all Official and Legal Purposes.

QuoteExpress
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE STARS, AND YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SERVICE NO 15332836W** L/NK JAWEED SHAIK of unit: 431 FD Coy, 12 ENGR REGT, C/O 56 Apo, Pin: 914012, Have Changed My Daughter **(OLD NAME) SHAIK HUMARIA** to **(NEW NAME) SHAIK HUMAIRA** and Mother **(OLD NAME) SHAIK HUSSAINBEE** to **(NEW NAME) SHAIK HUSSEN BI** Vide Affidavit Dated 29.03.2022 Sworn Before Notary Meer Hassan Bangalore.

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In this freewheeling chat with *CE*, art director Shivakumar J talks about the creativity, the process, and the difficulties in creating the world of director Prashanth Neel's *KGF*

Yash in a still from *KGF - Chapter 2*

'THANKS TO *KGF*, THE ART DEPARTMENT FINALLY GETS ITS RECOGNITION'

A SHARADHAA

AT the recent trailer launch of the much-awaited *KGF Chapter 2*, director Prashanth Neel proudly declared that he has worked with the best technicians in the world for the film. There is no doubt that the chief among those technicians is art director Shivakumar J, who is one of the strongest pillars of this Yash-starrer.

The State award-winning director, who did his fine arts degree at Chitrakala Parishath, made his debut with the Ravichandran's directorial *Aham Premasmi* (2005). Having worked in over 30 films, Shivakumar won his second State Award for *KGF Chapter 1*. Ahead of the film's release on April 14, Shivakumar talks to us about how the film has just got bigger in all imaginable facets with *KGF Chapter 2*. He begins by crediting his team who toiled extensively and worked together to creatively bring to life the vision for the film.

Talking about the popularity of the film, Shivakumar says, "The *KGF* sets have become a landmark now, and people often make their way to these locations in the State." This popularity also converts into expectations, and Shivakumar assures us that the artwork in *KGF Chapter 2* will be 10 times bigger than the first film. "It isn't like we decided to mount the sequel on a bigger scale only after the success of the first part. It was always there in the script right from the developing stage," he says.

For Shivakumar and the team, *KGF* was their second home right from the time they began working on the sets. Sharing the working process of *KGF Chapter 2*, the art director said that Prashanth Neel did give time for exhibiting their creativity and never pushed them with a deadline. "Right on the first day of our work, Prashanth said 'We will begin shooting only when you are done with the set work and design' and it allowed us to go into great detailing. In fact, I felt we could finish our work in 1.5 months, but it took us three," he explains.

Shivakumar J

Having made almost 20 major sets and 15 smaller sets for the film, Shivakumar asserts that the set design is original and is not inspired by any other films. "We studied and watched documentaries, and accordingly, we planned the sets. Every artwork that one sees in *KGF* is original and is something that will not be seen in any previous films. We came up with a number of concept sketches. We made sure that our artworks gave scope to cinematography as well." says Shivakumar, adding, "We would often have discussions with the director about the kind of activities that take place in a particular set, and we plan and work on it accordingly."

Shivakumar says that there has been a lot of improvisation made for *KGF Chapter 2*. Giving specifications about the tone used in the film, he said that the dark shade in *KGF* was given to showcase the pain that the labour class goes through. "I have specifically considered the lighting techniques and colour combination of Dutch artist Rembrandt, which is very dramatic. Every artwork in *KGF* looks like a painting, but has commercial elements too."

> We studied and watched documentaries, and accordingly, we planned the sets. Every artwork that one sees in KGF is original and is something that will not be seen in any previous films
>
> Shivakumar J, art director

Discussing his working relationship with Prashanth Neel, Shivakumar says, "Creating a big canvas for *KGF* was possible because of the director's imagination and producer Vijay Kirangadur's support. Since Prashanth Neel had studied in-depth about his film, it came as an advantage to us. He is a director with clarity and had clear instructions about what he wanted. We didn't find it tough because he gave us the right input."

Revealing an interesting detail about *KGF Chapter 2*'s artwork, Shivakumar says, "Except for a few items like telephones, we have avoided plastic in our artworks. Instead, we bought second-hand army tents to build the labour colony. It was also important that even the costumes worn by the artists should go hand-in-hand with the background." Shivakumar also reminisces about how the weather often played spoilsport for *KGF Chapter 2*. "Rain would play havoc with our plans. Sometimes we couldn't analyse the loose soil, and the granite stones would create obstacles while erecting the sets. Rain would dampen the sets, and the colours would get faded. It was difficult to bring back the same sets because artwork cannot be done mathematically. We cannot come up with the exact same setup every single time. But we have managed to achieve the best," says Shivakumar, adding, "Everything about *KGF* felt simple because we enjoyed working on it. Every single lesson I learned as a Fine art graduate came in handy while creating the world of *KGF*."

Shivakumar, who plans to watch the film, on the first-day first show, continues to assert that both the *KGF* films were never a one-man show. "Till the success of *KGF*, the art department wasn't widely recognised. Today there is a lot of importance given to the creative side of filmmaking. I'm thankful to all who have brought us to the front row," he signs off.

KICHCHA SUDEEP-STARRER *VIKRANT RONA* RELEASE DATE OUT

CE FEATURES

ACTOR Kichcha Sudeep's upcoming *Vikrant Rona*'s teaser and the release date came out on April 2, Saturday. The makers of the film announced that the multilingual film in 3D will make it to the bigscreens on July 28. The teaser introduces *Vikrant Rona*, the titular character through the perspective of a group of young kids.

In the teaser, a group of young children gathers around a piece of paper that one of them found. They are all intrigued to know more about the story of one 'ajji' (grandmother). Despite their best efforts, they couldn't find her journal but instead, find a piece of paper. It looks like a map, and one of the kids gathered around starts describing this scary entity that is a part of the ajji's tale. This entity is scarier than any lion and faster than a cheetah too. It can be nothing but a devil, and this is none other than *Vikrant Rona*.

The upcoming pan India film in 3D to see a global release on July 28

The film is directed by Anup Bhandari and produced by Jack Manjunath, under the Shalini Arrts banner and in association with producer Alankar Pandian. The film's music is composed by B Ajaneesh Loknath, and the cinematography is by William David. The film also stars Nirup Bhandari, Neetha Ashok, and Jacqueline Fernandez. *Vikrant Rona* in 3D to release worldwide will be out in five popular Indian languages and will also be dubbed and released in English, Spanish and Arabic.

Ninad, Anup Bhandari, Nishka Bhandari, Anushka and Aradhya

Team *Vikrant Rona* pays tribute to Puneeth Rajkumar

In a tribute to Puneeth Rajkumar from *Vikrant Rona* director, Anup Bhandari dedicates a scene to the Power Star. "'Patte Patte Huli. Kotte Kotte Togo' was the password that was used in a scene featuring Puneeth Rajkumar in the 1989 film, Parashurama. This also stars his father, the legendary actor Dr. Rajkumar. This password became an inspiration for *Vikrant Rona*. I had watched the film as a child, and as kids, we would often use it in our games. Now this password becomes part of my film too. I used it while penning the dialogues for the film 3 years ago," says the director, adding, "I didn't even think while penning this dialogue at that time that it would come as a tribute to Appu."

A still from *Vikrant Rona*

Director Mahesh to explore Vitiligo in his next, *Bili Chukki Halli Hakki*

The romantic comedy starring himself will also feature Vaishnavi Gowda

CE FEATURES

MAHIRA director Mahesh Gowda's next film is titled *Bili Chukki Halli Hakki*. Starring Mahesh in the lead, the film will be backed by his home banner, Honudi Productions.

Throwing light on the project, Mahesh said that he is trying to break barriers by making a film on the topic of Vitiligo. "This is a subject, which has never been explored in Indian cinema. I'm the first actor with Vitiligo condition to play the lead," says Mahesh, who bills his film as a romcom. "A simple village guy with vitiligo disorder is made to marry a beautiful fair girl, and this leads to a lot of confusion about the girl's decision. This is the crux of the story, which is going to be a laugh roti," says the director..

Mahesh shares that it was Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar who motivated him to go ahead with the project.

Bili Chukki Hali Hakki stars popular TV serial actor and *Bigg Boss Season 8* contestant, Vaishnavi Gowda opposite Mahesh. "The rest of the cast and technical crew is being finalised, and we plan to kickstart shooting in May," says Mahesh.

A still from *Bili Chukki Halli Hakki*

Piku writer Juhi Chaturvedi to make directorial debut

CE FEATURES

SCREENWRITER Juhi Chaturvedi, known for her projects like *Vicky Donor*, *Piku* and *October*, is gearing up to make her directorial debut. The writer took to social media and posted a picture of her script. She captioned it, "Koshish." The title of the script was hidden in the post.

Although the details of the project are not yet known, social media is abuzz with excitement considering her prolific work as a writer. A long-time collaborator of filmmaker Shoojit Sircar, Juhi made her screenwriting debut with the National Award-winning Ayushmann Khurrana film, *Vicky Donor*. She not only made a mark with her collaborations with Shoojit but also with her dialogue writing in Shonali Bose's *The Sky is Pink*, which starred Farhan Akhtar, Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Zaira Wasim.